5

僕らはみんな河合荘

BOKURA WA MINNA KAWAISOU

MIYAHARA RURI PRESENTS

宮原るり

カバーデザイン：川谷康久

YOUNG KING COMICS

僕らはみんな河合荘

BOKURA WA MINNA KAWAISOU

5

宮原るり

少年画報社
COMIC287

9784785952518

ISBN978-4-7859-5251-8
C9979 ¥571E

1929979005719

雑誌 50042－87
少年画報社
定価：本体571円＋税

BOKURA WA MINNA KAWAISOU

残念感満載な住人が集まる
下宿【河合荘】で憧れの先輩・律と
ひとつ屋根の下に暮らす高校生・宇佐。
ジリジリと律との距離を詰めんと
奮闘する中、波乱のバレンタインが
やってきて…？
しょっぱい系ひとつ屋根の下ラブコメ♥

宮原るり
MIYAHARA RURI

下ネタの上にも4年、
まさかのアニメ化。
深夜枠の懐の広さを
楽しんで頂けたら幸いです。

雪合戦しようよ！

じゃ雪玉作っとけ

ラジャ

何スかそれ

納戸で見つけた雪玉作り器

2玉いっぺんに作れるんだよ

雪をはさんでギュッと…あれ

開かない…壊れた？

やってみたかったのに～

シロさんなら形状マネして作れそう

―そうか…よし！

麻弓さんブラジャーちょうだい!!

2ブラジャーできれば4ブラジャー

わ

ほらよ

僕らはみんなシロ＋土＋斗 5
高尾ヨーリ
少年画報社

玉へってきたから

私が作ってみたぞ

ちょっと攻撃力高くしといた

まさか中に石入れたり…

するか！ケガはしねーよ

わ

…中に紙が入っていた

え？なに…

メンタル攻撃力↑

THE KAWAI COMPLEX GUIDE TO MANORS AND HOSTEL BEHAVIOR

BY MIYAHARA RURI

5

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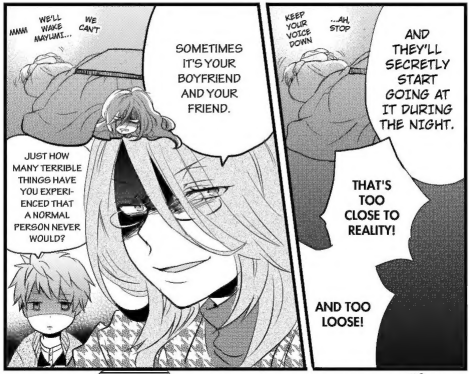
IT'S SO COLD TODAY.
IT'S BEEN CHILLY LATELY.
THIS STOVE IS SO WARM
THE COLD KIND OF MAKES ME FEEL LONELY...
ISN'T IT GREAT?
HEY, BOYS!
THE TIME HAS COME FOR YOU TO PUT YOUR UNREQUITED, UNUSUAL SEXUAL DESIRES AND IMAGINATIONS TO GOOD USE.
GET OUTSIDE
WHY DO YOU HAVE TO MAKE IT SO BITING?
GALS, COME HELP ME.
GALS...
O-OKAY...

CHAPTER 1
WHAT A HUGE KOTATSU.
THAT WAS HEAVY...
MY FRIEND SOLD IT TO ME CHEAP SINCE SHE WAS MOVING.
I'VE ALWAYS WANTED ONE, BUT THEY'RE EXPENSIVE
WE'LL ALL BE ABLE TO SIT HERE.
I'M EXCITED.

AREN'T MY LEGS SUPER LONG?
IT'S MY TORSO THAT'S SO LONG.
SENPAI, LOOK.
I'LL LIKE KOTATSU!!
WHAT ARE YOU TWO, IDIOTS?
STUPID
OH, SORRY.

TOO FRUSTRATED TO MAKE A SOUND
SHE THINKS IT'S EVEN FUNNIER THAN I EXPECTED.
SENPAI, DO YOU WANT TO DO IT, TOO?
I'LL BE THE LEGS.
HE'LL DEFINITELY TRY TO STICK HIS HEAD IN YOUR CROTCH.
BOOK ATTACK
WHY...
THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT KOTATSUS...
THEY MAKE YOU FEEL CLOSER TO OTHER PEOPLE.
THEY CERTAINLY DO!
THEY MAKE YOU FEEL RELAXED.
EVEN PEOPLE WHO DON'T KNOW EACH OTHER WELL CAN ENJOY DRINKING TOGETHER AROUND A KOTATSU.
SOMETIMES THEY END UP CUDDLING TOGETHER.


MMM
WE'LL WAKE MAYUMI...
WE CAN'T
SOMETIMES IT'S YOUR BOYFRIEND AND YOUR FRIEND.
JUST HOW MANY TERRIBLE THINGS HAVE YOU EXPERIENCED THAT A NORMAL PERSON NEVER WOULD?
KEEP YOUR VOICE DOWN
...AH, STOP
AND THEY'LL SECRETLY START GOING AT IT DURING THE NIGHT.
THAT'S TOO CLOSE TO REALITY!
AND TOO LOOSE!

SHIVER
ふるっ
WHY DON'T YOU TRY APPLYING FOR A GUINNESS WORLD RECORD? OH, BUT I'LL BET YOU'LL HAVE MORE EXPERIENCES, SO, IT'D BE A WASTE OF TIME TO APPLY NOW! HA HA HA

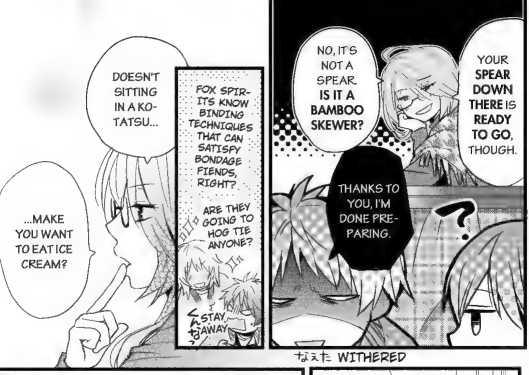
RUB
ゴシ...
I GET COLD EASILY, SO MY FINGERTIPS...
I KNOW.

ARE YOU COLD?
さすっ
FIDGET

I WONDER IF IT'S HARD TO READ.
.....
SENPAI, YOU LOOK LIKE SOME KIND OF BUG.
至福 BLISS
HOW ULTRA LAZY!
SOME-ONE TURN THE PAGE FOR ME.
BA-DUMP
EVERYONE'S HANDS ARE OUTSIDE.
WHICH MEANS...
BA-DUMP
BA-DUMP
C-COULD IT BE SENPAI?
SOME-ONE'S TOUCHING MY FEET.
BRUSH
BRUSH
THIS DOESN'T FEEL LIKE A FOOT... BUT A HAND?
YOU'RE HOPE-LESS
HUH?

I'M GOING TO PLAY A GAME.
GET PUNKED
プチドッキリ♡
I'M REALLY GOOD WITH MY TOES
IT'S ME.
I OPENED NEW AREAS OF THE MAP.
I HAVEN'T SEEN THAT VILLAGE BEFORE
THAT VILLAGER'S DIALOGUE
I WANT TO READ IT
HUH? IT'S SOMETHING ABOUT AN INCIDENT THAT HAPPENED IN THE VALLEY 50 YEARS AGO.
I TEND TO SKIP THIS KIND OF THING
WOW, WHAT AMAZING USE OF HIS FEET? I'D LIKE TO FOLD THEM UP!
SENPAI, ARE YOU THE TYPE WHO READS ALL THE BACKGROUND—
WHAT?
LEAN

LONG AGO, A FOX SPIRIT AND A WOMAN...
SHE'S SO CLOSE.
SHE KIND OF SMELLS NICE.
COME TO THINK OF IT, ISN'T A KOTATSU...
...JUST ONE FUTON?!
I'M SHARING A FUTON WITH SENPAI.
はっOH
YOU SHOULD HEAD THERE QUICKLY
THAT VALLEY SOUNDS INTERESTING.
Y-YOU'RE RIGHT.
LET ME GET MY EQUIPMENT TOGETHER...
I GOT A GOOD SPEAR.
I-IT CAN BE KIND OF A PAIN TO PREPARE, THOUGH.
JUMP
ぴょっ
LEAN
HUH? YOU'RE NOT USING A KATANA.


DOESN'T SITTING IN A KOTATSU...
...MAKE YOU WANT TO EAT ICE CREAM?
FOX SPIRITS KNOW BINDING TECHNIQUES THAT CAN SATISFY BONDAGE FIENDS, RIGHT?
ARE THEY GOING TO HOG TIE ANYONE?
STAY AWAY
NO, IT'S NOT A SPEAR. IS IT A BAMBOO SKEWER?
YOUR SPEAR DOWN THERE IS READY TO GO, THOUGH.
THANKS TO YOU, I'M DONE PREPARING.

なえた WITHERED

カルカッヌ*
THE ONE MABUCHI-SAN SENT US
WHOEVER LOSES IN THIS BOARD GAME CAN GO BUY IT!
SOMEONE MALE SHOULD GO BUY SOME.
I KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN.
THAT ONLY GIVES US TWO CHOICES.
DO YOU WANT TO ROCK-PAPER-SCISSORS FOR IT?
IT'S COLD. I DON'T WANT TO GO OUT.
I KNOW.

*BOX: CARCASSONNE

THANK YOU
カサ…
RUSTLE
COLD...
LOSER
OH

GRAB
HEY!
OH.
SHIRO-SAN?
WHY?
I'M NOT HERE TO SEE USA-KUN.
SHOULD I GO GET USA-KUN?
.....
HERE.
.....

THANKS FOR SAVING ME AT THE CULTURE FESTIVAL.
WHY?
BUT THEY CHASED YOU AROUND...
WHAT
えっ
IT WAS NO BIG DEAL...
HISTORY AND COSTUMES
歴史と衣装
MILITARY UNIFORMS OF EUROPE AND AMERICA
WHOAboo
I WAS FINE SINCE USA-KUN CAME...
OH...
THAT'S GREAT...
HE'S A REALLY GOOD GUY...
YOU CAN RETURN THEM WHENEVER.
WHAT SHOULD I DO?

I'M NOT GOING OUTSIDE DRESSED LIKE THIS!
NOW, NOW. IT'LL BE FUN.
JUST LIGHTEN THE MOOD BETWEEN ME AND MY FRIENDS.
TAGAMI, YOU BASTARD!
YOU WEAR IT!
THEY'D JUMP AT ME CONTEMPTUOUSLY IF I WORE THAT NOW.
THAT WAS PROBABLY KAWAI-SENPAI.
I SHOULD LET USA-KUN KNOW.
LET GO!
USA-KUN! UM...
HAYA-SHI?
OH, MY PHONE.
RRR
H...
HELLO...
WHAT?!
SEN...

DASH
WHAT?
USA?!
WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
HEY!
HAYA-SHI.
WHAT...
WHAT ARE YOU DOING, USA...
WHAT?
YOU THINK THEY'RE STILL AROUND?
I TOOK HER TO HER CLASS-ROOM.
SHE'S OKAY.
HOW IS SEN-PAI?

APOLO-GIZE TO HAYASHI.
WHAT?
IT WASN'T THAT BIG OF A DEAL.
WE'RE TALKING ABOUT HAYASHI.
ANYWAY, I HEARD YOU TRIED TO TAKE A PICTURE OF HAYASHI AGAINST HER WISHES.
AND YOU CHASED AROUND THE GIRL WHO TRIED TO PROTECT HER.
WHAT?
THAT WAS A GIRL?
... DRES-SED LIKE THAT?
DO YOU HAVE A PROBLEM WITH ME DRESSING LIKE A MAID?
UH, NO...
OH, REALLY?
WHO CARES WHAT WE DO TO HAYASHI?
YOU DON'T FEEL BAD.
WHAT?!
THERE'S NOTHING WRONG WITH IT, RIGHT? WHY ARE YOU SO FLUSTERED?
I E-MAILED ALL OUR CLASSMATES TO TELL THEM YOU RESTRAINED HAYASHI SO YOU COULD TAKE PIC-TURES OF HER BECAUSE SHE'S CUTE NOW.
WHAT?!
WHY WOULD YOU DO THAT?
D-DON'T BE RI-DICULOUS. ERASE THAT.
?
CLICK
CLICK
CLICK
FN FN FN
WHO ARE YOU E-MAILING?

SHUT UP! I'M PISSED!
YOU SCARED SENPAI!
BUT I'M TERRIBLE FOR BEING A LITTLE GRATEFUL THAT YOU MADE SENPAI CALL ME!
I DON'T CARE ABOUT THAT!
I SHOULD'VE STOPPED YOU GUYS WHEN YOU WERE SAYING STUPID SHIT!
I DON'T CARE ABOUT THAT! JUST ERASE THE E-MAIL!
NO WAY!
CHATTER
CHATTER

HE CARES ABOUT HER SO MUCH.
?
BUT SHE JUST THINKS OF HIM AS NICE?!
BUT IF THERE'S AN OPENING WITH USA-KUN, I'LL GO FOR HIM!
ISN'T THAT HOW GIRLS ARE?
YOU CAN BRING THEM TO THE HOUSEBOY CAFE WHEN YOU'RE FINISHED READING THEM.
OH! DON'T BRING THOSE WOMEN! THEY'LL JUST GET IN MY WAY!
CRUSH SOME YOUTH!
I JUST WANNA...
GET IN THE WAY? OF YOU AND KUROGAWA-SAN?
YES.
.....
I SEE...

LATER.
JUST KIDDING.
THERE'S NO WAY THERE'S AN OPENING.
SENPAI'S LATE.
MAYBE SHE'S READING SOME-WHERE.
SHIRO-KUN, COME HERE.
YES, I AM YOUR DOG.
HEY, USA.
MAYBE I'LL GO CHECK ON HER...
IT'S POS-SIBLE.
THE FUTON HERE...
THAT'S WHERE SENPAI WAS SITTING.
YEAH.

THAT'S WHERE RIT-CHAN WRAPPED HERSELF UP
AND ROLLED AROUND.
WHAT ABOUT IT?
NOTHING. I'M GONNA HAVE SHIRO SIT HERE WHEN HE COMES BACK.
SO, WHAT?!
NOTHING.
I'M GOING TO THE BATHROOM.
SHEESH...
I'M BACK...
.....?
GLOOM

CHAPTER 1/END

CHAPTER 2

THE BIRTHDAY OF OUR DEAR FRIEND IS COMING UP.
WHAT ARE EVERYONE'S PLANS LIKE?
IF WE'RE CELEBRATING HERE, LET'S DO IT THE NIGHT BEFORE.
MAYBE I'LL GET REALLY FESTIVE AND PUT UP A FAKE TREE.
SUMIKO-SAN.

OH, REALLY?
IT'S NOT A BANNED WORD.
YOU CAN JUST CALL IT CHRISTMAS.
CHRIST IS OUR FRIEND, HUH...
HE'S A DIVINE FIGURE. HE KNOWS US.
I'M GOING TO READ.
HMPH
HMPH
THIS ISN'T GOOD...
SHE HASN'T LET GO OF THE KO-TATSU HUFFING INCIDENT.
SHE'S COMING BACK AFTER NEW YEAR'S
APPARENTLY SHE'S BUSY
RIT-CHAN, WHAT ABOUT YOUR MOM?
UM... WHAT ABOUT YOU, SENPAI?
I DON'T HAVE ANY PLANS...
I THOUGHT WE'D GET TO SPEND CHRISTMAS TOGETHER.
WHY DID I GIVE IN TO MY URGES?
BUT IT DID SMELL NICE.

MAYBE I'LL GO ON DATES WITH THE TWO I CHOOSE... THOUGH IT'S DISAPPOINTING.
I'VE NARROWED IT DOWN TO THREE PEOPLE.
I SEE YOU'VE ALREADY DECIDED TO TWO-TIME THEM.
THANK YOU FOR THE CHRISTMAS PRESENT, MAYUMI-SAN!
I GUESS I MEAN SAYAKA-CHAN
AFTER I BUY LIMITED-TIME SWEETS WHILE BEING JOSTLED BY COUPLES WHO MAKE ME FEEL OUT OF PLACE, I'LL HELP SET UP.
CLENCH
SHIRO-SAN'S THE ONE WAITING IN LINE AFTER ALL.
I'M SURPRISED YOU'RE NOT PICKING A FIGHT WITH ME.
OH, REALLY?
ESPECIALLY WHEN IT SEEMS LIKE YOU'D CURSE THE WHOLE HOLIDAY.
CHRISTMAS SOUNDS NICE. WHY WOULD I CURSE IT?
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? EVEN GUYS WITHOUT TECHNIQUE
WHAT. ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT THIS EARLY IN THE MORNING, MAYUMI-CHAN?
WILL GET TO HEAR GIRLS SAY, "OH, NO... I'M SO WET"!
I'LL DO YOU A FAVOR AND PLACE THIS CURSE ON YOU FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE.
THAT MUST BE A RELIEF, LISA!
REMOVE IT.
THOUGH DURING THIS SEXIEST TIME OF THE YEAR, I DO HOPE EVERY SPRINKLER IN EVERY HOTEL IN THE COUNTRY MALFUNCTIONS.
THAT'S ENOUGH FOR A CURSE.
BESIDES, I MIGHT NOT BE AROUND ON THE 24TH.
HAH
WHAT?

I HAVE A MIXER ON THE 23RD!
MAYBE I'LL MEET SOMEONE SPECIAL.
WHO KNOWS WHAT THINGS WILL BE LIKE THE NEXT DAY?
AND THIS IS WHAT HAPPENED.
CHOMP
もしゃもしゃ
IT DIDN'T EVEN LAST ONE PAGE...
THERE WASN'T EVEN ENOUGH TIME TO BE DISAPPOINTED.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
I WAS SUPPOSED TO NARROW IT DOWN, BUT INSTEAD IT GREW TO SIX GUYS. IT WAS SUCH A PAIN, I DECIDED TO PASS INSTEAD.
I WISH I COULD NARROW MY HANDS AROUND YOUR NECK!
NOW, NOW.
*BILL. ONE HUNDRED YEN
HAVE A CHRISTMAS PRESENT FROM ME AND SUMIKO-SAN!
THERE'S ENOUGH FOR EVERY-ONE.
OLD BILLS?!
I FOUND THEM WHILE LOOKING FOR THE TREE IN THE STORAGE CLOSET.
I FOUND SOME OLD PASS-BOOKS TOO.
BANGKOK BANK
PASSBOOK
KAWAI YUUKO
KAWAI MIKA
ARE THESE BILLS VALUABLE?
WOW, IT EVEN SAYS "THE PACIFIC WAR" ON THE BACK! ALL THE AMOUNTS ARE HAND-WRITTEN TOO
NO, NOT AT ALL.
BUT THEY ARE WORTH THEIR PRINTED VALUE.
YOU CAN STILL USE THEM TODAY

JUST A LITTLE
SHOULD WE BET SOME-THING AGAIN?
LET'S PLAY A GAME.
WHO ARE YOU CALLING OLD BILLS?
THE OLD BILLS ARE STILL WORTH THEIR VALUE, TOO.
WHUD
I KNOW!
SOME-THING ELABO-RATE AND FUN!
LET'S THINK OF A PUNISHMENT GAME THAT'S MORE INTEREST-ING TO WATCH.
ONLY YOU WOULD ENJOY THAT, MAYUMI-SAN!
EITHER USA OR SHIRO WILL DO IT.
WALK UP TO THE ANNOYING COUPLES HANGING AROUND NEAR THE STATION AND ASK THE MAN, "ARE YOU CHEAT-ING?!"
I KNOW! WHAT ABOUT BUYING SOMETHING AT THE CON-VENIENCE STORE OR BOOK-STORE...
THAT STORE IS CLOSED.
IT'S TOO LATE
...ASKING A STORE WITH A YEAR-LONG SALE SIGN, "WHEN DOES THE SALE END?"
SALE
SALE
PFFFT
SOME-THING LIKE...
LET'S KEEP IT TO SOME KIND OF STUPID PRANK.

TAKE THE PULL CART TO A GAS STATION!
SENPAI IS LAUGHING...
YOU GUYS SUBS ARE GOOD AT COMING UP WITH STUPID SHIT
"SEATED STANDING SOBA BOOTH."
...AND HAVING THE RECEIPT MADE OUT TO
PFFFT
I GO ALL THE TIME.
WHAT...?!
PUTTING KEROSENE IN THE KEROSENE CANS
BUT...
I THOUGHT SHE WAS MOCKING ME...
IT'S OKAY. I'M SURE YOU'RE INCLINED IN HER MOCKERY.
OH, GOOD!
IS THAT WHY THE FEMALE CLERK WAS LAUGHING AT ME?!
WHAT
CARASSONNE IS SO FUN
THE LOSER WILL DRAW FROM THIS BOX AND PERFORM THE ACTION!
LET THE GAME BEGIN.
WE'LL MIX IN SOME SIMPLE ONES, TOO.
IT'S SCARY IF THEY'RE ALL BRUTAL
EAT WHITE RICE IN FRONT OF THE ADULT VIDEO CORNER OF RANDOM GAY ITS YOUR SIDE DISH!
TAKE THE PULL CART TO A DRIVE-THRU
BUY ALL 30 OF THE LIMITED AVAILABILITY CANDY IN THE STORE FROM NEARBY THE STATION (COMING MORNING)
READ A GIRLY ROMANTIC COMIC OUT LOUD
*BOX: PUNISHMENT

TSK
LAME.
CHEERFULLY AND ENERGETICALLY SING A CHRISTMAS SONG!
TREMBLE TREMBLE
WITH 21 POINTS, THE LOSER IS
RIT-CHAN!
SENPAI'S GOING TO SING...
PUNISHMENT
DON'T FORGET TO INCLUDE "CHEERFULLY," TOO.
YOU HAVE TO SING "ENERGETICALLY."
CHEERFULLY AND ENERGETICALLY SING A CHRISTMAS SONG!
J...
JINGLE BELLS,
JINGLE BELLS—
I CAN'T HEAR YOU!
WOULD YOU LIKE TO PICK A DIFFERENT PUN-ISHMENT GAME?
I CAN'T...
YOU MIGHT PICK SOMETHING EVEN CRUDER

JINGLE BELLS,
JINGLE BELLS.
JINGLE ALL THE WAY.
CLASH
CLASH
CLASH
CLASH
TODAY IS
CHRIST-MAS.
STOMP
STOMP
STOMP
STOMPING HER FEET
IT'S UNIQUE, ISN'T IT?
RIT-CHAN'S SINGING...
SHUT UP!

ANOTHER LAME ONE
また駄作か
WRITE A HAIKU ON EROTIC NOVELS.
2ND TIME
IT'S RIT-CHAN AGAIN.
"E... EROTIC NO-VELS..."
" EVERY SINGLE MAN WOULD DIE IF HE LOST HIS BOOKS."
THAT'S NOT TRUE!
4TH TIME
LETTERS WRITTEN ON FACE (MINE)
3RD TIME
GET HIT WITH A BAMBOO SWORD (ME)
RIT-CHAN, YOU'RE SO BAD AT GAMES.
URGH...
IT'S MY FAULT?!
THIS WOULDN'T HAVE HAPPENED IF YOU HADN'T PLACED YOUR ROAD NEAR MY CITY...

MUMBLE
ONCE I FINISH THAT...
THIS FIELD IS MINE...
MUMBLE
5TH TIME
WE'RE RUNNING OUT OF TILES
I'M GOING TO WIN THIS TIME!
I HOPE THE NEXT PUNISHMENT GAME IS INTENSE.
I DON'T WANT TO PLAY ANYMORE PUNISHMENT GAMES...
MUMBLE
MUMBLE
I FINISHED CALCULATING!
THE LOSER IS...

SIGN LIQUOR CIGARETTES
酒・たばこ
I HATE WORKING ON CHRISTMAS...
THERE'S HARDLY ANY CUSTOMERS. I WISH I COULD GO HOME.
はぁ…
SIGH
DING DONG
ピンポーン
WELCOME...
THEY'RE PRETTY.
OH,
WELCOME.
ARE THEY A CLOSE SENIOR AND JUNIOR?
I WONDER IF THEY'RE BOTH SINGLE.
DING DONG
ピンポーン
SELF-SATISFIED
WHAT? WHY DOES HIS FACE LOOK LIKE A HUMAN GUIDEPOST?
NORTH
WEST
EAST
SOUTH
IS THAT A GRANDMA, HER GRANDDAUGHTER, AND THEIR GOOD-FOR-NOTHING OLDER COUSIN?
A BUNCH OF PEOPLE ARE COMING IN.
WELCOME...
DING DONG
ピンポーン

WHAT'S HIS DEAL? HE'S SO LIGHTLY DRESSED...
HE'S SHAKING
FIDGET
HIS BAG IS IN TATTERS.
HE SEEMS AGITATED.
FIDGET
TWITCH
OH.
GOT IT
I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE GOING TO DO NEXT.
YOU'RE GOING TO TAKE THAT NEWSPAPER.

SEE? I KNEW IT.
TWO THOU-SAND...?!
...AND LOOK SURPRISED WHEN YOU SEE THE DATE.
UH
ARE THEY OUTSIDE?
EXCUSE ME...
THERE'S NO ONE WHO LOOKS LIKE THAT AROUND
WHAT?!
I BET YOUR STUPID FRIENDS ARE WATCH-ING FROM SOME-WHERE INSIDE THE STORE.
PRETEND-ING TO BE A TIME TRAV-ELER.
YOU STUPID HIGH SCHOOL BOY?
HOW
A HUN-DRED?!
HOW MUCH...
A HUN-DRED YEN.
YES, IT'S CHOCO-LATE.
IS THIS CHOCO-LATE...?
BEEP
HE'S SO ANNOY-ING.
IS THIS ALL?
Y...
YES.
RUSTLE
IT'S "MUSH-ROOM VIL-LAGE".
THIS "ROOM-MUSH VIL-LAGE" COSTS A HUNDRED YEN?

*BILL: ONE HUNDRED YEN

EXCUSE ME...
CAN I NOT USE THAT...?
WHAT?! WHY DOES HE HAVE THIS?
IT'S EVEN GOT A REVERSE SIDE.
I'VE NEVER SEEN ONE BEFORE, BUT IT LOOKS REAL.
A HUNDRED YEN NOTE?!

UM...
THE PACIFIC WAR...?
HOW DID YOU GET HERE...?
.....
A FOR-EIGN MAN
DRESSED IN RED...
OH
IS THERE A BANK NEARBY WHERE I COULD USE THAT TO WITHDRAW...
I GUESS IT'S TOO LATE NOW...
?!
OH!
I'M SORRY...
FWUMP
WHOOPS!
RUSTLE
I DON'T HAVE ANY OTHER MONEY...
N-NO.
YOU CAN... CAN YOU USE THIS?!
WITH TAX
WHAT?
BESIDES, IT'S 105 YEN...

I'LL PUT IN 105 YEN LATER
IT'S A CHRIST-MAS PRESENT FROM ME.
BUT...
MERRY CHRIST-MAS.
WHAT?
IT'S FINE.
UM... I DON'T HAVE FIVE YEN. YOU CAN HAVE THIS BACK.
I DON'T UN-DERSTAND EITHER...
THANK YOU!
MERRY CHRISTMAS.

THANK YOU!!
ありがとう

HOW ABOUT ON THIS CHEEK?
ME TOO!
I WANNA KISS THAT CLERK.
SINCE WE INCONVENIENCED THE CLERK, EVERY ADULT MUST SPEND AT LEAST A THOUSAND YEN.

WHY'D YOU SAY THERE WAS A FOREIGNER? DON'T ADD TO YOUR BACKSTORY.
WHAT ARE YOU, A JOB-SEEKER?
YOUR ACTING WAS WONDERFUL.
USA-KUN, YOU'RE PRETTY DETAIL-FOCUSED
I KNOW, WHAT YOU MEAN
WHEN I KNOW, I CAN'T MAKE A SOUND! I LAUGH EVEN HARDER!
WHEN HER FACE TURNED FROM RED TO PURPLE, I WAS SCARED
RIT-CHAN ALMOST DIED FROM LAUGHTER.
YOU'RE LATE.
I'M WEARING THIN CLOTHES UNDER NEATH THIS, SO I'M COLD
COAT WAS HIDDEN

WHAT? WAS THERE A WAY FOR ME TO WIN?
YOUR TILE LOCATIONS
YOU LOST ON PURPOSE, DIDN'T YOU?
WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR GOOD ACTING FROM THE CONVENIENCE STORE?
.....
USA-KUN.
IT'S FRUSTRATING... BUT YOU SAVED ME. THANK YOU.
I COULD NEVER HAVE DONE THIS PUNISHMENT GAME
SEN-PAI...
I'M STILL FRUSTRATED, THOUGH.
.....
THEN THIS
CAN BE MY CHRISTMAS PRESENT TO YOU!
I ACTUALLY HAD MORE BACK STORY PLANNED
I HAD A SICK YOUNGER SISTER WHO LIKES CHOCOLATE.
I CHOSE "MUSHROOM VILLAGE" TO SATISFY HER WISH TO EAT A CHOCOLATE NO ONE'S EVER HAD BEFORE.
PFFFT!

あはははは
HA HA HA HA HA
STOP!
THAT'S ENOUGH!
MY STOMACH HURTS
I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING FOR YOU.
I JUST GOT ONE.
.....
IT'S OKAY.
HERE'S MY PRESENT FOR YOU.
TAKE GOOD CARE OF THIS BOOK.
IT WAS HARD TO FIND THIS!
CAN'T YOU AT LEAST PUT IT IN A BAG?
THIS IS MY BOOK!
WHO KNEW YOU WERE HIDING THEM IN THE BOX BEHIND YOUR BOOK-SHELVES?
BUT WHAT PROMPTED YOU TO BUY THEM?
WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO DO?
I WANT TO RUIN YOUR YOUTH
CHAPTER 2/END

CHAPTER 3

YOU'RE REALLY NOT COMING HOME FOR NEW YEAR'S?
I'M IN HIGH SCHOOL NOW. WHO CARES?
YOUR SISTER'S COMING HOME.
THAT'LL JUST MAKE THE APARTMENT EVEN MORE CROWDED.
BESIDES, I'M BUSY!
WITH WHAT?
—!
IN ANY CASE, I'M SPENDING NEW YEAR'S HERE.
WAIT.
BYE!
BEEP—
WHAT AM I DOING?
SENPAI!
WELL...

I'D NEVER MISS A CHANCE TO SPEND A NIGHT WITH SENPAI.
USA-KUN.
WERE YOU AT THE LIBRARY AGAIN?
IT'S CLOSED AFTER-TOMORROW...
HAVE YOU STOCKED UP ON BOOKS FOR THE END OF THE YEAR? YOUR BAG LOOKS HEAVY.
I HAVE TEN BOOKS.
THAT'S A LOT!
DO YOU WANT A SWEET BUN?
THANKS.
I WANTED TO BORROW MORE, BUT THE LIMIT...
NOM
YOU'RE GOING TO SPEND NEW YEAR'S READING?
YOU WON'T BE ASLEEP ON NEW YEAR'S
I DON'T HAVE ANY-THING TO DO OVER WINTER BREAK.
WOULD YOU LIKE TO, UM...
.....

RUSTLE
WHY DON'T YOU WATCH ONE OF THE MOVIES IN THE BACK OF YOUR DRESSER?
LIKE "NAUGHTY FRONT OVER-RUN! SEXUALLY AGGRESSIVE GIRLS TORE MY SON APART IN HAND-TO-HAND COMBAT."
NONE OF MY TITLES ARE THAT FILTHY... I MEAN, I DON'T HAVE ANY!
I DON'T KNOW WHAT THAT MEANS, BUT IT SOUNDS PAINFUL!!
CHEW
CHEW
DID YOU KNOW, RIT-CHAN?
WHEN A MAN GIVES A WOMAN A SWEET BUN, IT MEANS "WHIP YOUR TITS OUT SO I CAN SQUEEZE THOSE SWEET BUNS."
WHY DO YOU HATE SWEET BUNS?
THEN IT'S BEST WE TOUCH YOUR SWEET-S
YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE A LIN-GUIT ON YOUR HANDS!
WOULD YOU LIKE TO BORROW A BOOK?
SHE REALIZED LONG BREAKS ARE DIFFICULT WHEN YOU HAVE NO PLANS.
YOU WERE SO EXCITED ABOUT THE LONG WINTER BREAK LAST NIGHT.
DON'T HAVE EPIPHA-NIES BEHIND MY BACK.
OH.
WHY ARE YOU SULKING...
CHEW
CHEW

*CALENDAR: DECEMBER (THURS)

DON'T YOU THINK YOU CHEW TOO MUCH GUM?
DOESN'T CHEWING GUM MAKE YOU FEEL STRONGER? LIKE YOU COULD DESTROY THE WORLD.
WHAT AN ECONOMICAL EXPERIENCE...
31
12月 木
CHEW CHEW
MAYUMI-CHAN, SPIT OUT YOUR GUM.
WE'LL BE RINGING IN THE NEW YEAR TOGETHER THIS YEAR.
*T-SHIRT: ANALOG GUERRILLA
IT'S OKAY, MAYUMI-SAN!
IT'S NEW YEAR'S EVE TODAY.
SO?
DAMN IT... I CAN'T BELIEVE I DON'T HAVE ANY PLANS FOR NEW YEAR'S...
I DON'T WANT TO CELEBRATE THE NEW YEAR IN SUCH DEPRESSING FASHION...
LAST YEAR IT WAS JUST THE THREE OF US.
WE'RE FINISHED.
YOU BITCH.
WHAT? I WAS TALKING ABOUT MYSELF.
THIS YEAR WE'RE BOTH SINGLE WITH NO PROSPECTS.

TRY ADDING "LAST TIME THIS YEAR" TO EVERY-THING.
THE LAST TIME THIS YEAR I'LL SPEND A HOLI-DAY WITHOUT A BOYFRIEND.
THE LAST TIME THIS YEAR I'LL BE SINGLE.
WHAT A GREAT IDEA!
IN JUST FOUR HOURS, IT'LL BE "THE FIRST TIME THIS YEAR".
DO YOU WANT TO PLAY GAMES LIKE WE DID ON CHRIST-MAS?
NO!
DID YOU HATE IT THAT MUCH?
BUT YOU WERE SO EXCITED TO PLAY, MAYUMI-CHAN.
.....
THE NEXT DAY I FELT INCREDIBLY IMMATURE FOR MY AGE...

I DON'T WANT TO DO ANYTHING SPECIAL, BUT I WANT YOU TO BE ESPECIALLY NICE TO ME.
DON'T TALK ABOUT ANYTHING THAT MATTERS.
WHAT AN AWFUL NEW YEAR'S EVE...
DO YOU PREFER...
..."HOG SOUP" OR "BOAR'S SOUP"?
I'LL ALLOW IT.
"HOG SOUP," OBVIOUSLY.
BUT WITH "HOG SOUP"...
...IT'S NOT CLEAR WHAT "HOG" MEANS ON ITS OWN.
I FEEL LIKE IT RELIES ON "SOUP" TOO MUCH.
"BOAR'S" CERTAINLY IS MORE SPECIFIC,
BUT DOESN'T IT SOUND LIKE YOU'RE REFERRING TO THE "SOUP OF THE BOAR"?
DON'T YOU MEAN "SUPER BOWL"?
WHEN I ORDERED IT AT A RESTAURANT THE OTHER DAY, THE MAN THERE CALLED IT "BOWL-LISTIC MISSILE."
IT DOESN'T SOUND AS STRONG AS BEEF BOWL, THOUGH.
"BOWL OF THE BOAR" DOESN'T SOUND AS GROSS AS SOUP EITHER.
YOU'RE RIGHT. "BOAR'S BOWL" IS BETTER.
BUT YOU NEVER HEAR ANYONE CALL PORK BOWLS "HOG BOWLS."
AND BEEF BOWLS ARE NEVER COW BOWLS.
MAYBE HOG SOUP IS BETTER...

SENPAI, YOU MUST BE REALLY READY TO READ IF YOU'VE GOT TWO BOOKS.
DID YOU WANT TO READ THAT...
HUH?
HOW UNREASONABLE.
QUIT TALKING ABOUT STUPID STUFF.
I CAN'T HEAR THE TV.
...? IS IT THAT INTERESTING?
OH?
WOBBLE
WOBBLE
NOD
NOD
GASP

MMM...
DO I GET TO WATCH SENPAI SLEEP?!
USA...
KLIN...
EXPECTATION
RIT-CHAN, YOU STAYED UP ALL NIGHT AGAIN, DIDN'T YOU?
WHY DON'T YOU LIE DOWN?
WHAT?
NOD
こくこく
WAIT
HER DEFENSE IS SO SOLID!!
がっちり
TIGHT
YOU'RE DISAPPOINTED YOU CAN'T SEE HER FACE?
BUT...
I CAN'T EVEN HEAR HER BREATHING...
I GUESS THIS IS CUTE IN ITS OWN WAY.

IT'S DEFINITELY PLANNED TOO.
WHEN THEY SAY SOMETHING CUTE IN THEIR SLEEP LIKE "...USA...KUN."
PLEASE DON'T CRUSH MY DREAMS! YOU CAN'T BE SURE IF THAT'S TRUE OR NOT!
I'M SURE YOUR "NAYUMI RESEARCH" IS STEEPED WITH YOUR BIAS AND UNHAPPINESS!
THEY'RE ALWAYS JUST PRETENDING TO BE ASLEEP.
NO ONE WANTS THEIR SLEEPING FACE TO BE SEEN
ANY TIME SOMEONE SHOWS OFF SUCH A BEAUTIFUL SLEEPING FACE,
I'M LEARNING MORE THINGS I HAVE NO INTEREST IN KNOWING!
WHILE A PERSON SLEEPS, THEY PRODUCE LESS SALIVA AND SWALLOW LESS FREQUENTLY. TO DETERMINE WHETHER SOMEONE'S PRETENDING TO BE ASLEEP OR NOT, WATCH THE MOVEMENTS OF THEIR THROAT.
BETTER THAN LOSING YOUR MODESTY AND STILL BEING A PAIN
VIRGINS ARE SUCH A PAIN
I'M STILL YOUNG ENOUGH THAT I WANT TO HOLD ONTO MY DREAMS!
WHO CARES? IF SHE'S ACTING, IT MEANS SHE'S INTO YOU.
PLAY IT RIGHT AND YOU'LL BECOME A REAL MAN

OH, NO!
WE'RE OUT OF SAKE.
MAYUMI-SAN, WHY ARE YOU EXPOSING YOURSELF?
*BOTTLE: SAKE
USA-KUN, WAKE RIT-CHAN.
WE NEED TO EAT OUR END-OF-YEAR NOODLES SOON.
WHAT?
I'M STILL IN HIGH SCHOOL.
IF YOU WANT TO DRINK, BUY IT YOUR-SELF.
USA, GO BUY SOME MORE!
I'M SCARED, TOO, SO I'M TAKING MY OWN STICK.
HE'S JUST A STICK.
HERE, HE'LL PROTECT YOU.
SE...
SENPAI.
GULP
WAKE UP.
SENPAI.

そお…
WHOA.
HER HAIR IS SO SOFT.
TURN
TURN
SENPAI...
RUB
なで…

HER...
HER MUFFLED VOICE IS TOO MUCH...
SOME-THING ELSE WOKE UP
ASLEEP
.....
HRM...
OH, NO. AT THIS RATE...
...I MIGHT DO SOMETHING EVEN WORSE THAN THE KO-TATSU HUFF-ING INCIDENT.
SEN-PAI!
PLEASE WAKE UP!
FOR MY SAKE TOO.
SHAKE ゆさゆさ
SHAKE ゆさゆさ
SHAKE ゆさゆさ
LIFT ぉ...
.....
YOU'RE FINALLY AWAKE...
WHEW...

SLOW WAKER
WHACK
ASLEEP
ASLEEP
?
ASLEEP
← AWAKE
THERE'S ONLY A FEW MORE MINUTES LEFT IN THE YEAR!
THE NEW YEAR...
11:51

ぼーん
GONG
HAPPY NEW YEAR!
LET'S HAVE ANOTHER GREAT YEAR TOGETHER!
NO WAY!
SOME BOY CALLED ME. THEY NEVER GIVE UP.
SENPAI!

LET'S—
LET'S HAVE ANOTHER GREAT YEAR TOGETHER.
HUH?
I CAN'T BELIEVE...
LET'S HAVE ANOTHER GREAT YEAR TOGETHER
NO, SERIOUSLY!!
...SENPAI SAID IT TO ME.
A TEXT...
RINGALING
—!

I'M SURE SHE HAS NO IDEA...
YOUR FIRST TEXT!
HEH.
...HOW HAPPY I AM.
先輩あけおめ!!
EDITED: HAPPY NEW YEAR!
今年もよろしく!!
LET'S MAKE ANOTHER GREAT YEAR TOGETHER.
☆ウラ
HUH?
RINGA LING
返信
SENDING REPLY
BEEP
.....
IT'S FROM HAYA-SHI.

SHE'S SO DILIGENT.
SHE SAYS HI TO YOU TOO.
REALLY?
IT'S A NEW YEAR'S TEXT
ピロリロ
BEEP
キャンセル
CANCEL
RINGA-LING
ピンポーン
TAGAMI? HE'S DILIGENT, TOO
IS SOME-THING WRONG?
NO
LET'S HAVE OUR FIRST DRINKS OF THE YEAR!
I'VE ALREADY TIED MYSELF UP FOR THE FIRST TIME! WAIT, SINCE I STARTED LAST YEAR, DOES THIS MEAN I'VE TIED MYSELF UP FOR TWO YEARS?!
A-AMAZ-ING...
MY FIRST TIME IG-NORING SOMEONE.
WHAT'S SO AMAZING? SINCE I JUST TOLD YOU SOO, THIS IS MY FOURTH YEAR.
MY FIRST TIME NE-GLECTING SOMEONE.

RIT-CHAN, WHY DON'T YOU GO TO SLEEP?
OKAY...
FIRST TIME SLEEP-ING.
SO ANNOY-ING...
FIRST TIME SLEEPING ALONE.
FIRST GOOD NIGHT!
WHY IS HE JUST AS EXCITED AS THEM?
HE'S SOBER
OH, RIGHT.
LET ME KNOW IF YOU HAVE ANOTHER BOOK RECOMMENDA-TION.
I'M GOING TO THE LIBRARY TO BORROW SOME...
...SOON?
TOSS
ぽん

FIRST READ...
FIRST...
STEP 1
STEP 1!
THIS BOOK...
REMEMBER THIS.
*BOOK: WAITING IN THE CASTLE

CHAPTER 3/END

SHIRO-SAN AND ME 15

YES.
ARE YOU HEADING OUT?
UHHH.
IT SEEMS WE MADE IT IN TIME.
SMILE
FOR US TO SEE SUCH A QUIET MORNING...
IT MUST BE THE NEW YEAR... NO, THE LIGHT OF THE NEW WORLD.
SMILE
I NEVER DREAMED MY INCANTATION WAS THE KEY TO SAVING US FROM DESTRUCTION.
NO, IT WAS MY PSYCHIC POWERS.
HOW MANY PIECES OF MOCHI DO YOU WANT IN YOUR BREAKFAST SOUP?
THREE.

AFTER THE CHRISTMAS MIRACLE

クリスマスの奇跡 アフター

IT'S THE CONVENIENCE STORE CLERK.
WHAT?!
I-POSSIBLE... BUT... I DON'T KNOW HIS TEL. #...
I THINK MY GRANDFATHER'S COUSIN MIGHT BE YUJIRO.
IS HE STILL DOING WELL?
YOUR GRANDFATHER... NO, YOUR GREAT-GRANDFATHER. ISN'T HIS NAME YUJIRO?!
HEY, YOU!
GRAB
HE'S GONNA YELL AT ME
OH, SHIT. THIS GUY IS REALLY NICE.
THAT'S GREAT... HE MADE IT HOME SAFELY...
HE GOT A CUTE GIRL-FRIEND AND FINALLY GOT THE JOB HE'D ALREADY GIVEN UP ON.
HE SAID HE'D HAD TONS OF GOOD LUCK SINCE HE STARTED CARRYING AROUND THE HUNDRED YEN NOTE.
IF YOU SEE YUJIRO, TELL HIM THIS.
HE SAID HE DIDN'T NEED ANY CHANGE.
SINCE I STARTED KEEPING THE HUNDRED YEN NOTE HE LEFT IN MY WALLET...
WHAT?
I THINK IT'S JUST BECAUSE HE'S A GOOD PERSON.
GIVE ME ALL THE HUNDRED YEN NOTES HE HAVE LEFT!

SUMIKO-SAN.
FIRST SHRINE VISIT
EXTREMELY LIVELY
初詣
TOKA'S POPULAR SHRINES
THE PAPER'S NICE.
IT FEELS LIKE SUCH A WASTE TO JUST THROW IT AWAY.
THERE'S NO USE FOR IT, THOUGH.
12
THANK YOU
I'M PUTTING UP A NEW CALENDAR.
GASP
NO, THIS SIZE...
THAT'S IT!
LIFT

CHAPTER 4
CERTIFI-CATE OF MERIT!
USA KAZUNARI-KUN!
YES!
WAIT, IS THIS THE FIRST TIME MY NAME HAS APPEARED?!
CRÉER
SINCE IT'S TAKEN SO LONG, I TOTALLY THOUGHT SENPAI WOULD CALL ME BY MY NAME IN THE FINAL CHAPTER!

ANYWAY, WHAT'S THAT CERTIFICATE OF MERIT FOR?
IS IT AN AWARD FOR EFFORT? OR PARTICIPATION?
NO WAY. WE'RE ALREADY MOVING ON FROM MY NAME?
LET'S THINK OF AWARDS THAT WOULD SUIT USA-KUN.
LIKE THE QUICK SHOOTING AWARD.
YOUR PRIZE IS TEN YEARS' WORTH OF TISSUES.
YOU ALSO WIN THE BRAND NEW AWARD.
...RN RRR
YOUR PRIZE IS TO BE BRAND-NEW FOR TEN MORE YEARS.
I MEANT FOR IT TO BE A TYING UP YOUR ROOMMATE AWARD.
THAT DOESN'T HAVE ENOUGH BITE
HE'S GOING TO BITE ME, TOO?
THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT
DEEP
HELLO?
MOM?
BEEP
DDD

I'VE NEVER SEEN SENPAI TALK TO HER MOM BEFORE.
SENPAI'S MOM, HUH?
I WONDER WHAT SHE'S LIKE.
HEY, USA.
WE SETTLED ON THE TINY DICK AWARD!
UNLIKE THESE PEOPLE,
HEY, YOU!
IS SHE STRONG AND INTELLECTUAL?
THEY SEEM TO GET ALONG...
SUMIKO-SAN.
MY MOM SAID SHE'D GET HERE AROUND THREE.
REALLY?
WHAT?

I'M MEETING MY CRUSH'S PARENT FOR THE FIRST TIME AND HAVING DINNER WITH HER?!
OH, RIGHT.
SHE SAID SHE WAS COMING BACK.
WE HAVE SOME OTHER GUESTS COMING TODAY.
TONIGHT SHOULD BE LIVELY.
THAT'S A HIGH HURDLE.
SHE LOOKS LIKE RIT-CHAN.
CALM AND TRIM?
SHE SEEMS REALLY BUSY.
I HAVEN'T SEEN HER SINCE SHE CAME LAST NEW YEAR'S
IT'S BEEN A YEAR.
WHAT? BUT I LIKE YOUR MOM.
IF THEY TRIED TO COME, I'D DO EVERYTHING IN MY POWER TO STOP IT!
NO WAY!
USA-KUN, YOUR PARENTS AREN'T COMING?
I'M SURE SHE'S NOTHING LIKE MY MOM...
COME TO THINK OF IT, SHIIBO-KUN'S MET HER BEFORE.
WHEN IT COMES TO TINY DTOES, YOU ARE REMARKABLE.
I DOESN'T "INFERIOR PRIVATES" SOUND BETTER?
矢敗作

*T-SHIRT: DEFECTIVE PRODUCT

DID YOU TWO NOT NEED TO VISIT HOME?
MY FAMILY'S VACATIONING IN HAWAII.
WHAT ABOUT YOU, MAYUMI-CHAN?
I... DON'T WANT TO GO HOME FOR A WHILE.
BECAUSE THEY WON'T SHUT UP ABOUT MARRIAGE?
.....
...THEY STOPPED...
SAYING IT AT ALL LAST YEAR.
FIRST DEPRESSION
初鬱
WORDS LIKE BOYFRIEND, MARRIAGE, AND SINGLE WERE COMPLETELY ABSENT FROM THE CONVERSATION.
WHEN MY UNCLE ACCIDENTALLY MENTIONED MY COUSIN'S WEDDING, EVERYONE STARED HIM DOWN...
IF ONLY YOUR RELATIVES' PERSONALITIES WERE AS POOR AS YOUR OWN.

NOW, NOW... LET'S GO ON OUR FIRST SHRINE VISIT OF THE YEAR AND PRAY.
SUMIKO-SAN, YOU'RE SO INADVERTENTLY CRUEL.
SPEAKING OF FIRST SHRINE VISITS...
GRAB
WHAT? UM, NOT THIS YEAR...
NOPE
YOU HAVE TO WEAR YOUR BEST.
I CAN'T MOVE...
I APPLIED SOME LOOSE CURLS
SENPAI LOOKS GREAT...
SINCE YOU HAD THIS WONDERFUL KIMONO MADE FOR YOU, YOU SHOULD WEAR IT EVERY YEAR! IT WON'T BE LONG BEFORE YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO WEAR A KIMONO WITH SUCH LONG SLEEVES! RIGHT, MAYUMI-CHAN?
BUT I WORE THIS LAST YEAR...
SUMIKO-SAN, YOU'RE SO INTENTIONALLY CRUEL!

*BANNER: FIRST SHRINE VISIT
CROWDS!
I LOVE AMAZAKE!
LIBA-TIONS!
I HOPE SOMEONE SQUEEZ-ES ME!
LISA'S
THIS PLACE HAS SOME GREAT STUFF, AND IT'S ALL YOU CAN DRINK!
THE THREE OF US CAN GO TO-GETHER.
OH.
SHEESH
I DON'T REALLY LIKE AMAZAKE
NEITHER DO I.
*TEXT: RAKES AND ARROWS ON SALE
HAAH
ARE YOU COLD?
ONLY MY HANDS ARE COLD
I GET COLD EASILY...
WE SHOULD HAVE BROUGHT SOME HAND WARMERS.
IN THAT CASE...
破魔矢・熊手販売
I'M GOING TO BUY A RAKE AND AN EX-ORCISING ARROW.
WAIT HERE.

...YOU CAN USE MY HANDS INSTEAD.
IN THAT CASE?
I COULD NEVER SAY THAT.
OH.
WAIT HERE.
おしるこ無料
BANNER: FREE RED BEAN SOUP
HEY, THAT GIRL.
SHE'S CUTE.
THINK SHE'S ALONE?

SHOVE
THANKS FOR WAITING!
THANKS...
LET'S TRY TALKING TO—
OUTTA THE WAY
RED BEAN SOUP...
?
USA-KUN, YOU MUST REALLY LIKE RED BEAN SOUP.
YEAH... I DO...
YOU SEEM SO HAPPY
THANK YOU...
BLUSH
TSK
SHE'S WITH A DUDE?
LET'S GO.
LET ME HOLD THAT FOR YOU.
AND, HAVE SOME RED BEAN SOUP
IT'S NOTHING
YOUR FACE...
THANKS FOR WAITING
USA-KUN, DO YOU HAVE A COLD?

CHATTER
CHATTER
RIT-CHAN, ARE YOU OKAY?
IT'S SO CROWDED.
WOULD YOU LIKE TO HOLD HANDS SO WE DON'T GET SEPARATED?
HA HA
はは
GOOD IDEA.
THE THREE OF US
URGH... IT'S SO DIFFICULT TO WALK...
WHAT
RIT-CHAN.
I MEAN, WE WOULDN'T WANT TO GET SEPARATED.
IT SEEMS LIKE YOU'RE HAVING A HARD TIME MOVING IN YOUR KIMONO TOO.
I COULD HOLD YOUR SLEEVE...
.....
MY HAND!

RAKE
HAPPINESS
HOUSEHOLD SAFETY
OF COURSE.
BUT...
...WE'RE CONNECTED.
WHAT?

I WAS JUST THINKING RAKES REALLY DO BRING YOU HAPPINESS.
OH, REALLY? THEN I'LL SCRATCH YOUR BACK WITH OUR RAKE WHEN WE GET HOME. YOU CAN FINALLY HAVE THE CLAW MARKS ON YOUR BACK YOU'VE ALWAYS WANTED. ISN'T THAT GREAT?
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING
なにやってんの
OUR RAKE IS MADE OF METAL
家の熊手
鋼製
ガラン
CLANG
ガラン
CLANG

CLAP
ぽんっ
CLAP
ぽんっ

I WANT...
SPE-CIFIC...

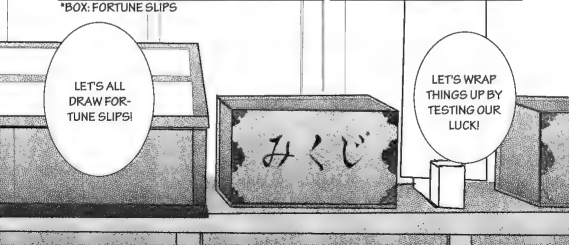
APPARENTLY YOU SHOULD KEEP YOUR WISHES SPECIFIC.

IF THINGS GO WELL... I'D ALSO LIKE...
IF POSSIBLE, I'D LIKE TO BECOME CLOSE ENOUGH TO HOLD HER ACTUAL HAND NEXT YEAR...
I HOPE THE SERIES THAT'S BEEN AT A STANDSTILL WILL END DURING MY LIFETIME.
...TO BECOME CLOSER TO SENPAI.
AND BECOME AN ELITE.
YES... TO MAKE EVEN MORE MONEY,

I WISH FOR MEN WHO DON'T CHEAT, ARE DEVOTED, WILL LET ME GET AWAY WITH ANYTHING
AND ARE PHYSICALLY ATTRACTIVE, BOTH ABOVE AND BELOW, TO SURROUND ME SO I CAN HAVE MY PICK OF THE BUNCH
COULD YOU NOT MAKE YOUR OBVIOUSLY GREEDY WISHES OUT LOUD?!
I'D LIKE AT LEAST 50,000 YEN IN SAVINGS, AND NOT HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT LIVING TOGETHER
I GOT YOURS MIXED UP WITH MINE!!
YOUR WISH IS TERRIFYINGLY SPECIFIC!!
AND A NUISANCE!

HIS FAMILY HAS LAND, AND HIS ANNUAL INCOME IS AT LEAST...
SHIRO-SAN'S MAKING IT EVEN WORSE
I HOPE I MEET AND FALL IN LOVE WITH SOMEONE GREAT AT TYING PEOPLE UP

*BOX: FORTUNE SLIPS



"GIVE UP ON YOUR WISH." THAT SERIES...?
中吉
MODERATELY GOOD LUCK
"LOTS OF TROUBLE WITH YOUR WISHES." ALL RIGHT.
"LOTS OF TROUBLE WITH LOVE."
SLIGHTLY GOOD LUCK
小吉
末吉
LUCK TO COME

SAYAKA-CHAN, PAY YOUR RENT.
BAD LUCK
凶
IT SAYS MY BUSINESS WILL PROSPER.
吉
GOOD LUCK

ACCORDING TO YOUR LOGIC, IT SHOULD BE BAD LUCK...
BA-DUMP
ドキ
BA-DUMP
ドキ
THIS ONE FEELS LIKE GREAT LUCK...!
SAYAKA GOT BAD LUCK? THE GODS MUST KNOW WHO THE BAD APPLES ARE!

EVEN
平
WHOA!
WOW, THAT'S A RARE ONE!
知人が本当に出しました
MY ACQUAINTANCE ACTUALLY DREW ONE
WHAT
YOU KNOW WHAT THIS IS?
YOU'RE LESS LIKELY TO DRAW IT THAN GREAT LUCK OR BAD LUCK.
DOES THAT MEAN I'M SUPERBLY LUCKY?!
NO, IT FALLS BETWEEN GOOD AND BAD LUCK.
IT'S NEITHER GOOD NOR BAD.
EVEN THOUGH IT'S RARE, I FEEL LIKE I LOST.
THE CONTENT OF A FORTUNE SLEEVE IS MORE IMPORTANT, RIGHT?
待ち人
しばらく来ず
THE PERSON YOU ARE WAITING FOR WILL NOT COME FOR A WHILE.

I CAN'T WAIT FOR A WHILE AT MY AGE, DAMN IT!
GIVE ME YOUR SAKE!
SHE'S BEAUTIFUL...
BUT REPULSIVE.
I'LL PASS ON THAT.
THOSE ACTIONS ARE PROBABLY WHAT'S MAKING IT TAKE A WHILE...
I'M SURE THE PRIEST WISHES HE COULD CRY RIGHT NOW
WHIMPER
RINGALING
SUMIKO-SAN, MY MOM ARRIVED.
BEEP
SHE'S EARLY.
IT'S FINALLY TIME TO GREET SENPAI'S MOM.
OH.
FIRST IMPRESSIONS ARE IMPORTANT.
I SHOULD MIND MY MANNERS SO I DON'T OFFEND HER.

TWITCH
HEY, KA-KUN!
THIS
PER-SON'S
HEY, KA-KUN?
KAJUPPE?
KAJUPPE!
KING?
KA-KUN?
KING!
VOICE.

MY FIRST IMPRESSION IS TERRIBLE.

CHAPTER 4/END

KAZUNARI 4 YEARS OLD

MOMMY'S BOY

CRYING AFTER HE COULDN'T FIND MOMMY

RITSU 4 YEARS OLD

LOVES PICTURE BOOKS

LOOKS LIKE HER GRANDFATHER?

SHIRO-SAN AND ME 16

シロさんと俺 16

.....
YEAH, SHE ATTENDS A COLLEGE OUTSIDE THE PREFECTURE.
LISA-KUN, YOU HAVE AN OLDER SISTER, RIGHT?
!!?
YEAH, I TAKE BATHS!!
SO, DO YOU TAKE BATHS?
DO I STINK?!
WOW!
YOU TAKE BATHS WITH YOUR SISTER?!

CHAPTER 5

WHY DO I CALL HIM KING WHEN HIS NAME'S KAZUNARI?
WHEN HE WAS JUST STARTING TO LEARN ROMAJI, HE WROTE "**KAZ**" ALL OVER HIS NOTEBOOKS.
DOESN'T KAZ REMIND YOU OF **KING KAZ**?
WETTING THE BED? HE DID IT HIS SECOND YEAR OF GRADE SCHOOL AFTER WATCHING A HORROR FILM.
EMBARRASSING DIARIES? THERE'S NOTHING LIKE THAT... BUT THE NOTES ON HIS ORIGINAL VIDEO GAME CHARACTERS WERE FUNNY.
HIS FIRST LOVE? HMMM... PROBABLY WAKANA-CHAN FROM KINDER-GARTEN.
MY FAVORITE ARE THE ICE KNIGHTS CALLED **BLIZZARD ELITE**.
WHEN HE ASKED HER TO MARRY HIM, SHE SAID, "**YOU'RE MY THIRD CHOICE**." WAKANA-CHAN'S SUCH A LITTLE IMP.

LET ME GO, SHIRO-SAN!
SORRY... BUT THE SITUATION IS SPE-CIAL...
MAYUMI-SAN SHE'D TIE ME UP AS A REWARD.
THE ONLY THING THAT'S SPECIAL HERE IS YOUR PERVERTED PERVERSITY!
DON'T SAY ANY-THING ELSE!
WHAT WAS THE FIRST DIRTY MAGA-ZINE YOU FOUND?
HMMM

I'M SORRY MY SON IS SO NOISY.
TH...
THAT'S ALL RIGHT...
IT'S YOUR PUN-ISHMENT FOR IGNORING ME.
DON'T!
I'VE HARDLY SAID ANY-THING. YOUR FIRST YEAR OF MIDDLE SCHOOL, YOUR SWIM-SUIT—

RATTLE
FUR-THER-MORE...
...MY FAVOR WITH HER WILL TAKE A NOSE DIVE...
AT THIS RATE...
DAMN THAT HAG.
SENPAI'S MOM
IS TOTALLY REPULSED.

THAT'S A SHAME
もったいない
OH, MY
YOU CHANGED ALREADY?
BUT IT LOOKED GREAT ON YOU.
OH.
YES.
THANK YOU...
SHE FINISHED CHANGING.
YOU LOOK CUTE IN WESTERN CLOTHES TOO.
YOU'RE BOTH SO BEAUTIFUL. ARE YOU POPULAR AT SCHOOL?
WHAT?
NOT REALLY.
ARE ONLY BEAUTIFUL GIRLS ALLOWED AT THE KAWAI COMPLEX? IT'S A GOOD THING YOU'RE A BOY.
MOM!
IT'S OVER-FAMILIAR!
SHE MIGHT MAKE SENPAI HATE ME TOO.
WHAT'S YOUR PROBLEM?
WHY DID YOU COME HERE ANYWAY?
I KNEW YOU'D TELL ME NOT TO COME IF I TOLD YOU, SO I ASKED SUMIKO-SAN NOT TO SAY ANYTHING.
WHAT'S WRONG WITH VISITING THE PEOPLE LOOKING AFTER MY SON ON NEW YEAR'S DAY?
YES.
OH! IS THAT BOOK INTERESTING?
I WAS THINKING OF READING IT.
UM... AN EXECUTIVE OF A MAJOR FUND...
WHAT'S IT LIKE?
AND THEN?
MOM!

BESIDES, SHE JUST CAME BACK FROM AMERICA, SO SHE MUST BE TIRED.
AMERICA?
I'M SURE THEY HAVE A LOT TO TALK ABOUT
SENPAI AND HER MOTHER HAVEN'T SEEN EACH OTHER IN A WHILE, SO DON'T GET IN THEIR WAY.
AND HOW HE BECAME FREAK SHOW.
THIS IS THE ROOT OF USA'S COMMUNICATION ABILITIES.
AND THE SOURCE OF HIS RETORTS
HAHAHA! ALSO, WITH YOU'VE BEEN A LITTLE MORE TACTFUL LATELY.
AT...LEAST THANKS IT DOUBLE
BUT THAT WOULD MAKE THE WHOLE FAMILY AMERICAN, SO I STOPPED
FOR A WHILE I CALLED YOU "AMERICAN."
COME TO THINK OF IT, IN ADDITION TO "KAZ," YOU LIKED "USA," A LOT TOO.
USA!
USA
LISTEN TO ME!
I COMPLETELY FORGOT TO GIVE YOU THIS GIFT AND DELICIOUS TEA
IT'S ALL RIGHT
WHY, THANK YOU.
LET'S HAVE IT WITH THE SNACKS RIT-CHAN'S MOTHER BROUGHT!
WHEW.
OH
I'LL HELP YOU.
I'LL GO MAKE SOME TEA.
I COULDN'T ASK A GUEST TO HELP ME...
OH, NO.
PFFFT
AMERICAN...

THE HEART-WARMING CONVERSATION OF A BEAUTIFUL MOTHER AND DAUGHTER...
HOW'S SCHOOL? ARE YOU HAVING FUN?
IT'S ALL RIGHT. I TOLD YOU ABOUT IT OVER THE PHONE.
THAT'S GREAT.
.....
HOW ARE YOU, MOM?
.....
IT'S BEEN A WHILE, RITSU.
YEAH...
THINGS ARE GOING WELL. LAST WEEK, MY BOSS...
OH, RIGHT.
YOU TOLD ME OVER THE PHONE THE OTHER DAY.
THAT'S RIGHT.
THANKS FOR WAITING.
SPREAD TO USA
IS THIS GARBAGE?
OH, THAT'S...

AHHH!
WHEN IT COMES TO INFERIOR PRIVATES, YOU ARE UNSURPASSED AND TRULY REMARKABLE...
"TINY DICK AWARD," USA KAZUNARI.
...THE AWARD CERTIFICATE WE MADE.

SHE'S REPULSED AGAIN...
.....
WHEN ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
YOUR ANSWER WILL AFFECT HOW I TREAT HIM IN THE FUTURE.

GIVE...
授与...
KAZUNARI... HAVE YOU NOT GROWN SINCE THEN...?
DON'T USE MY PROPER NAME NOW!
粗チン大宇佐

ぷっ
PFFFT

HA.
THAT'S SO FUNNY.
I'D BEEN TRYING NOT TO LAUGH, BUT...
OH
I'M SO SORRY. I'M SURE YOU DON'T FIND IT FUNNY.
NO, IT'S HILARIOUS!
AFTER ALL, IT HAS NO BASIS IN REALITY!
HEY...
NO BASIS IN (MASCULINE) REALITY?
I'M SURE THERE MUST BE SOME...
YOU'RE ALWAYS MISTAKING CRUELTY FOR KINDNESS.
WHEN I IMAGINE WHAT THE VENUE MUST LOOK LIKE... THERE ARE ONLY TWO PARTICIPANTS TOO...
WHAT? I'M INCLUDED?
CHUCKLE
RIT-CHAN'S MOM IS A SURPRISINGLY GOOD SPORT.
AND SHE LIKES DIRTY JOKES?
SHE'S A LITTLE DIFFERENT FROM SENPAI.
THEY'RE SIMILAR AT THE CORE, THOUGH.
SIMILAR CORE

HOT SAKE IS GOOD.
YOU HAVE GOOD TASTE, KAWAI-SAN.
THEY'RE GETTING ALONG...
I HAVE A PRESENT FOR YOU, RITSU.
I FOUND SOMETHING INTERESTING.
OH, RIGHT.
I HAVE NO DESIRE TO SEE IT...
SENPAI, DON'T BE LIKE THAT...
YOU HAVEN'T EVEN SEEN IT! YOU'RE SO MEAN!
YOU HAVE NO IDEA WHAT MAKES A GOOD GIFT.
I DON'T WANT IT.
SUCH A QUICK RE-(SPONSE.

BUFFALO HORNS (FALSE)
バッファローの角(偽)
YEAH,
BUT DON'T YOU THINK IT'S WILD AND COOL?
DOESN'T IT LOOK REAL?
SHE BROUGHT THIS BACK FROM AMERICA FOR HER DAUGHTER IN HIGH SCHOOL..
WHY DON'T YOU TAKE IT, THEN, USA-KUN?
HERE
ハイ
WHAT?
THE HORNS COME OFF.
POP
THEY'RE HOLLOW INSIDE, SO IT'S PERFECT FOR HIDING VALUABLES.
BESIDES, IT'S TOO BIG.
IT'S NOT THAT VALUABLE.
I'M NOT GOING TO SAY ANYTHING.
IS ONE SIDE FOR ME...?!
SINCE YOU'RE OFFERING, I ACCEPT...
IT'S FROM SENPAI'S MOM.
I ALSO BROUGHT THIS...
RUSTLE
THERE'S MORE?

THIS LOOKS LIKE IT'D TEAR YOUR HEAD OFF IN THE NIGHT.
CHARMY-SAN THE DOLL-SHAPED CLOCK.
21:18
I DEFINITELY DON'T WANT THAT.
MAKE IT STOP
WHAT?
WHAT ABOUT YOU, KAZUNARI-KUN?
GOOD MORNING!
RATTLE
IT'S TERRIFYING!
IT EVEN HAS AN ALARM.
DROOP
SLUMP
IT'S ARMS ARE HUGE AND LONG!

I'M A MAN.
I'M NOT SURE I WANT SOMETHING SO CUTE...
WHAT ABOUT YOU, KISHIDA-KUN-SAN?
I'M TOO OLD FOR SUCH A CUTE CLOCK.
NO, SAY IT!
YOU SUDDENLY STOP BEING YOUNG IN THESE SITUATIONS.
THE MOVIE THAT MADE YOU WET YOUR BED WAS ONE OF THESE, WASN'T IT?
IT BRINGS BACK MEMORIES...
GIGGLE
IS THIS AN APPROPRIATE MOMENT FOR NOSTALGIA?
I'M GOING TO A RELATIVE'S HOUSE TOMORROW, SO I'LL TAKE THIS WITH ME.
THEY HAVE A FEW KIDS IN GRADE SCHOOL...
あはは
HA HA HA
BUT IT'S SO INTERESTING...
THEY'LL DEFINITELY WET THE BED.
I CAN HEAR THE SHAME.
IT'S TERRIFYING ENOUGH ON ITS OWN.
THEY'RE DEFINITELY CRY IF THEY HEAR THE SOUND IT MAKES.
WHAT KIND OF SOUND SHOULD IT MAKE?
SOMETHING MORE GIRLY AND NATURAL...
LIKE WHAT?
FOR EXAMPLE...
おはよう
GOOD MORNING.
IT'S MORNING.
WAKE UP.
OR SOMETHING.

CV: RITSU
GOOD MORNING.
IT'S MORNING.
WAKE UP.
STOP IT!
THAT!
IT HAS A RECORDING DEVICE, SO YOU CAN SET YOUR OWN ALARM.
ISN'T IT AMAZING?
THERE.
RECORDING COMPLETE!
WHAT?
I KIND OF WANTED IT A LITTLE. CRAP.
.....
I'D NEVER SAY THAT!
I'M NOT GIVING IT TO YOU IF YOU ASK FOR IT LATER.
WHAT'S YOUR PROBLEM
PUT THAT THING AWAY!
.....
I'M SORRY ABOUT MY MOM.
NO, I'M SORRY ABOUT MY MOM...
ARE YOU REALLY ACCEPTING THE BUFFALO HORNS?
IT'S BETTER THAN CHARMY-SAN.
HOHOH, IF-DEH.
I'LL DO IT.
WHILE WE'RE AT IT, LET'S CLEAN UP THE TABLE.
SUMIKO-SAN, YOU'RE DRUNK.
HAPPY
GO HELP THEM!
I HAVE NO CHOICE...

MY MOM'S SO OVER-FAMILIAR AND LOUD...
SHE'S INTER-EST-ING.
I GOT TO TALK ABOUT BOOKS
YOU CAN SAY WHATEVER YOU WANT TO EACH OTHER. YOU MUST BE CLOSE
WE'RE NOT CLOSE.
YOU TWO SEEM WAY CLOSER.
.....
THAT'S NOT TRUE.
HUH? WHAT ABOUT JUST NOW?
YOU SEEM TO HAVE FUN TALK-ING ON THE PHONE TOO.
IT'S FINE WHEN SOME-ONE ELSE IS INVOLVED.
WE HARDLY TALKED WHEN I WAS IN MIDDLE SCHOOL.
BUT WHEN IT'S JUST US... THINGS DON'T SEEM TO GO WELL.
IT'S PARTLY BECAUSE MY MOM'S SO BUSY
BUT THEN SHE'D QUES-TION ME AND WE'D ARGUE...

SINCE SHE MOVED FOR WORK
WE STARTED TALKING ON THE PHONE.
BUT WE DON'T GET ALONG WHEN WE MEET IN PERSON.
IT HAS TO BE AT A DIS-TANCE OVER THE PHONE.
SEEING YOUR FAMILY
MAKES ME FEEL LIKE THERE'S SOMETHING WRONG WITH MINE.
YOU'RE OVER-THINKING IT!
SEN-PAI...

KIDS ARE TOTALLY REBELLIOUS DURING MIDDLE SCHOOL.
BESIDES, YOU SHOULDN'T USE MY FAMILY AS YOUR STANDARD.
MY FAMILY'S DEFINITELY WAY WEIRDER
HEH HEH
IT'S NICE OF YOU TO WORRY ABOUT THAT.
WHAT?!
MY SISTER WAS TERRIBLE UNTIL HIGH SCHOOL.
BEING ABLE TO TALK OVER THE PHONE IS MORE THAN ENOUGH.
MY FAMILY HAS NOTHING TO DISCUSS.
IF IT'S EASIER TO COMMUNICATE THAT WAY, DON'T YOU THINK THAT'S ENOUGH FOR NOW?
.....
YOU THINK SO?
THAT'S RIGHT.

DIFFERENT PEOPLE HAVE DIFFERENT FAMILIES.
WHAT'S BEST CHANGES, DEPENDING ON THE DAY AND ENVIRONMENT.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO UNDERSTAND EACH OTHER PERFECTLY.
I THINK IT'S FINE TO INTERACT ONCE IN A WHILE WITHOUT FORCING YOURSELF.
BY THE WAY, IT SEEMS THEY'VE FORGOTTEN ABOUT ME RECENTLY!
THEIR TREATMENT OF ME MADE ME SHIVER
THEY WERE SHOCKED WHEN I CALLED THE OTHER DAY.
THAT MUST BE BEST FOR NOW.
FOR THEM
NO MATTER HOW YOU LOOK AT IT, THERE'S NO WAY YOU'LL UNDERSTAND EACH OTHER.
WE'RE GOING TO A RELATIVE'S HOUSE TOMORROW AFTERNOON.
OKAY. GOOD NIGHT.
.....

HEY, RITSU
.....
WHAT?
WHEN USA-SAN WAS TALKING ABOUT KAZUNARI-KUN'S PAST,
I ALMOST MENTIONED THAT.
MEN-TIONED WHAT?
WHAT YOU WROTE IN THE MARGINS OF YOUR MIDDLE SCHOOL NOTEBOOK.
YOUR "I CAN'T BREATHE..." POEM.
WUMPH
?!
GIGGLE
HOW ABOUT NOW? CAN YOU BREATHE?
.....
I'D FORGOT-TEN ABOUT THAT.
BUT IT SEEMS HEARTLESS TO SAY I CAN...
IT WOULD SEEM LIKE IT'S BE-CAUSE I'M NOT LIVING WITH MY MOM
ARE YOU OVER-THINKING THINGS?
I WISH YOU WOULD'VE EITHER GOTTEN UPSET OR LAUGHED IT OFF.
YOU'RE SUCH A HANDFUL
?!
GIGGLE
YOU KNOW, RITSU...

I HOPE YOU'LL TELL ME AGAIN
ABOUT THE ORDINARY LIFE YOU'RE HAVING...
WITHOUT NEEDING TO WORRY ABOUT
WHETHER OR NOT YOU CAN BREATHE
OKAY.

.....
USA-KUN.
.....
SEN-PAI...?
WAKE UP.
ISN'T SHE AT HER RELATIVE'S HOUSE?
DID SHE ALREADY COME BACK...?
IT'S MORNING.
WHAT?!
SE...
WAKE UP...
SEN-PAI!
REACH

I PUT IT THERE SO YOU COULD FEEL AS THOUGH YOU WERE SLEEPING SIDE BY SIDE WITH RIT-CHAN.
APPARENTLY HER RELATIVE'S CHILDREN WERE TOO AFRAID TO ACCEPT IT.
SO SHE GAVE IT TO YOU.
I ENDED UP ACCEPTING IT
BUT IT'S RIT-CHAN'S VOICE.
I DON'T WANT IT EITHER!
URGH.
MORN-
ING

CHAPTER 5/END

いつか笑う黒歴史

DOES KAZUNARI CAUSE YOU ANY TROUBLE?
NONE AT ALL! HE'S VERY HELPFUL.
IF ANYTHING HAPPENS, PLEASE LET ME KNOW.
I WONDER IF KAZUNARI-KUN IS THE REASON RITSU HAS CHANGED.
NO, NO! HE'S CHEEKY AND SENSITIVE... YOU'RE LUCKY RIT-CHAN IS SO CUTE.
ACTUALLY, RITSU CAN BE VERY FUSSY. SHE ONLY STARTED TALKING TO ME RECENTLY.
I CAN'T BELIEVE HE BEHAVED THAT WAY WHEN WE HAVEN'T SEEN EACH OTHER IN A WHILE!
HE'S A WONDERFUL SON.
BUT SHE SEEMS TO BE HOLDING BACK.
BUT, WELL...
AS LONG AS THEY'RE HEALTHY AND HAPPY.
OKAY.
SO THEY CAN LAUGH ABOUT THEIR CHILDRENS' REBELLION AND CALL IT THEIR "DARK PAST."
PARENTS HAVE TO STAY HEALTHY AND HAPPY, TOO,
BUT HE DOES ANNOY ME, SO I ENJOY LAUGHING ABOUT HIS DARK PAST.
HA HA ... HA

TODAY YOU'LL LAUGH ABOUT YOUR DARK PAST
いま笑う黒歴史
WE'VE BEEN WAITING FOR THIS DAY...!
IT'S SNOWING SO MUCH.
EVIL SPIRITS, SLUMBER IN THE PERMA-FROST...!
CAN YOU HEAR THE SNOW'S GRIEF?
CAN YOU HEAR THE WIND'S RAGE?
IT'S THE FIRST BLIZZARD OF WINTER.
THE BLIZ-ZARD ELITE!!
WE ARE
DAMN THAT HAG!

CHAPTER 6
WELL
START-
ING
TODAY
I'M OFF
MY
LONELY
BATTLE
BEGINS
SEE YOU
LATER
I HAVE
ONLY ONE
GOAL

WE'RE BACK...
ただいま～！
ONE WEEK BEFORE THE BATTLE.
USA-KUN, PLEASE!
WILL YOU WORK TEMPORARILY FOR US?
WE'RE HOLDING A BUNCH OF EVENTS, AND WE'RE SHORT-STAFFED.
EVENTS?
WELCOME BACK
TO RECEIVE COURTESY CHOCOLATE FROM SENPAI!
THAT'S NOTHING TO SHOUT ABOUT.
I CAN'T BELIEVE HE CALLED IT LONELY.
DON'T READ MY INTERNAL MONOLOGUE..
FOR VALENTINE'S DAY!

WON'T YOU HAVE MORE PEOPLE WORKING, THEN?
I'M BRINGING IN A FEW GIRLS FROM THE RESTAURANT AS WAITRESSES DRESSED LIKE CHARACTERS FROM MISS MODERN.
FOR OUR SPECIAL MENU ITEM "HOT CHOCOLATE,"
EVERY DRINK COMES WITH A PIECE OF CHOCOLATE.
FROM THE END OF JANUARY UNTIL THE WEEK OF VALENTINE'S DAY,
I'M ALSO PLANNING A ONE-DAY LIMITED "TAISHO ROMANCE VALENTINE'S DAY" PACKAGE.
THERE'S A LOT OF WORK TO BE DONE IN THE KITCHEN.
BUT...
WITH SENPAI, OF COURSE.
I'D RATHER GO TO THAT AS A CUSTOMER...
I'M GOING TO LEND HOUSEBOY AND MISS MODERN OUTFITS TO COUPLES
FOR TEA AND A COMMEMORATIVE PHOTO SHOOT.
IF THERE'S INTEREST, I'M CONSIDERING A CHOCOLATE MAKING CLASS AS WELL...
...BUT I KNOW THAT'S NOT POSSIBLE.

I WANT CHOCOLATE FROM SENPAI!
RAWR
I DON'T MIND COURTESY CHOCOLATE.
I CAN'T AFFORD TO WORK WHEN I NEED TO WIN HER OVER...
I'M SOR—
OH, RIGHT!
ABOUT YOUR HOUSE-BOY UNIFORM.
TWITCH
I ADDED A NEW ELEMENT RECENTLY.
IT'S SURPRISINGLY POPULAR WITH PEOPLE WHO LIKE COSTUMES.
OH
I JUST HAPPENED TO BRING IT TODAY.
WHY DON'T YOU TRY IT ON?
FIDGET
URGH...

BUT SINCE IT'S POPULAR, I GUESS IT'S OKAY
IT'S A LITTLE STRANGE TO WEAR ONE INSIDE.
.....
A CAPE?
THIS...
THE SCHOOL UNIFORM VERSION IS CURRENTLY UNDER REVIEW.
ISN'T IT COOL, RIT-CHAN?
...COULDN'T YOU GO COMMANDO UNDER THERE?
WHY WOULD YOU DO THAT?
.....
IT DOESN'T LOOK STRANGE.
I'LL GIVE YOU SOME TICKETS, SO COME TO THE STORE.
DON'T YOU LIKE CHOCOLATE, RIT-CHAN?
YEAH...
...IS EXTREMELY...
GLANCE

*SHIRT: COMPLAIN

TSK
VALENTINE'S DAY, HUH... DAMN, IT'S ANNOYING.
USA... ARE YOU MENTALLY PREPARED TO ENTERTAIN PEOPLE?
DIDN'T YOU SAY YOU'D THINK OF CHOCOLATE AS EXCREMENT AND KEEP CALM?
GENERALLY SPEAKING, COUPLES HAVE PROBLEMATIC TENDENCIES.
I'M SO EXCITED FOR ALL SORTS OF SEASONS! IT'S TWO BIRDS WITH ONE STONE!
VALENTINE'S DAY IS ALREADY COMING UP?
WHAT A PAIN.

I'M FROM A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT ERA...
I'M SORRY...
MAYUMI-SAN, THAT'S HOW THINGS WERE IN YOUR DAY...
OH...
I BET YOU GIVE EVERY-ONE CHOCO-LATE AND ASK FOR TRIPLE IN RETURN.
WHAT ERA ARE YOU FROM?
CHOCOLATE FOR PEOPLE YOU'RE SERI-OUS ABOUT IS ONLY TWO TO THREE THOU-SAND YEN.
THREE TIMES THAT AMOUNT WOULD BE NINE THOU-SAND AT BEST.
STATISTICALLY SPEAKING MOST PEOPLE SPEND BETWEEN ONE AND TWO THOUSAND ON THEIR ROMANTIC INTEREST
THINK ABOUT IT.
I'M SO GLAD I'M BORN IN MAY.
THERE'S TIME TO WORK, SO IT'S PER-FECT.
THEN I WAIT UNTIL THE TIME IS RIPE AROUND MY BIRTH-DAY.
STOP! THIS IS DIS-GUST-ING!
THIS HAS GONE BEYOND SCARY TO DISGUST-ING!
JUST ASK FOR SOME COOKIES AND HAPPILY EAT THEM.
SWEETS FROM A STORE ARE TOO OBVIOUS AND MAKE YOU SEEM CHEAP, SO GET SOMETHING FROM A DECENT BAKERY.
IF PEOPLE THOUGHT OF YOU AS A WOMAN WHO COULD BE BOUGHT FOR SUCH A FALTRY SUM, IT WOULD MAKE THINGS DIFFICULT IN THE FUTURE.
"BUT, YOU GAVE ME THESE.
IT'S SO SAD... THAT THEY'LL BE GONE..."
WHEN YOU'RE DONE EATING, BE SURE TO THANK THEM.

FRIENDSHIP CHOCOLATE IS SUCH A PAIN, TOO.
I HOPE THE FIRST PERSON TO SAY COURTESY CHOCOLATE OR FRIENDSHIP CHOCOLATE
GROWS SPIKES ON THEIR TURDS DURING THIS SEASON...
THAT HURTS.
MAYUMI-CHAN, YOU GIVE PEOPLE FRIENDSHIP CHOCOLATE?
.....
YOU KNOW...
WE'RE DOING IT AT WORK BECAUSE OF SOME YOUNG GIRL THAT LOVES CATCHY PHRASES.
I HAVE TOO MANY PEOPLE TO CURSE DURING THIS TIME OF YEAR.
MAYUMI-SAN'S ALWAYS CURSING PEOPLE WITH SOMETHING.
YOU'RE LUCKY YOU DON'T HAVE TO GIVE ANYONE FRIENDSHIP CHOCOLATE, RIT-CHAN.
HAVE YOU GIVEN ANYONE CHOCOLATE BEFORE?
YOUR FAMILY DOESN'T COUNT.
I'VE EXPERIENCED FRIENDSHIP CHOCOLATE AND COURTESY CHOCOLATE.
IN MIDDLE SCHOOL
REALLY?
YOU HAD CLOSE MALE FRIENDS?
えっ WHAT
NO...
WE POOLED OUR MONEY
AND A STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE HANDED THEM OUT...

I WILL TAKE SENPAI'S FIRST COURTESY CHOCOLATE...!
USA-KUN, YOUR GOAL KEEPS FALLING LOWER AND LOWER.
DON'T READ THAT.
NO! YOU CAN'T.
CAN YOU REALLY CALL THAT GIVING SOMEONE CHOCO-LATE?
SENPAI HAS NEVER GIVEN ANYONE COURTESY CHOCOLATE!
I GAVE SOME-ONE CHOCO-LATE
I DON'T CARE IF IT'S LOW
WHAT'S WRONG WITH WANT-ING TO BE HER FIRST?
RUSTLE

I'LL EARN HER FAVOR WITH THIS OUTFIT.
GOOD LUCK, USA-KUN.
WE'LL STOP BY LATER.
THERE ARE GONNA BE MISS MODERN GIRLS, TOO. RIGHT? THINK I COULD GET THEM TO STEP ON ME WITH THOSE BOOTS?
JUST ACT CASUAL.
RIT-CHAN, YOU'LL GO, WON'T YOU?
RIGHT?
YEAH...
I'LL BE WAITING FOR YOU!
SENPAI WITH-DRAWS IF SHE'S PUSHED TOO HARD.
SHE TENDS TO OVER-THINK THINGS.

I STILL HAVE TIME.
I'LL TAKE THINGS CAREFULLY...
HUH?
USA-KUN?!
CHINA-TSU-CHAN.
I THOUGHT YOU QUIT WORKING.
ひさしぶり
IT'S BEEN A WHILE
REALLY
I'M WORKING THERE AGAIN FOR A LITTLE BIT.
R-REALLY?
YOUR CAPE IS SO COOL.
YEAH!
THE HOUSEBOY LOOK WAS TOO SPOT-ON AND JUST MADE YOU LOOK POOR.
S!
SHE'S AS SADISTIC AS EVER.
I WISH I COULD GO TO THE HOUSEBOY CAFE, TOO.
MY MOM SAID SHE'D TAKE ME BUT I HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO GO
OH.
IN THAT CASE..

USA-KUN!
HAYASHI-SAN HAS BEEN ASKING TO WORK HERE FOREVER,
SO I HIRED HER JUST FOR THE HOLIDAY.
HAYA-SHI?!
.....
I DIDN'T RECOG-NIZE YOU AT FIRST.
YEAH.
BLONDE HAIR DOESN'T SUIT THIS OUTFIT
YOU CHANGED YOUR HAIR COLOR.
WHAT?!
YOU CHANG-ED FOR THIS JOB?!
THE THEME IS A TAISHO ROMANCE. I COULDN'T POS-SIBLY HAVE KEPT IT.
MY BLONDE HAIR
DOES SHE LIKE COS-TUMES, TOO?

IT SEEMS LIKE SHE'D GET ALONG WITH SENPAI.
I'M DYEING IT BACK ONCE THIS IS OVER.
WHY?
SAYAKA DIDN'T APPROVE OF THE OLD COLOR ANYWAY.
IT'S PAINFULLY OBVIOUS
WIZARD'S AUTHORITY
IT LOOKS GOOD.
IT'D COST ALL HER WAGES, TOO.
IT'S A WASTE.
R...
REALLY?
YEAH.
I'M SURE KUROKAWA-SAN PREFERS YOU THIS WAY, TOO.
.....
OH, USA-KUN...
SIGH
?

USA-KUN, HAYASHI-CHAN.
I HAVE A FAVOR TO ASK YOU...
NOTH-ING
なんだよ
WHAT
なんでも
いらっしゃいませ
WELCOME
BESIDES, WE HAVE TICKETS
THIS IS THE HOUSEBOY CAFE?
IT'S A GOOD THING YOU RAN INTO USA-KUN.
THANK YOU, SUMIKO-SAN.
FOR THEIR VALENTINE'S DAY EVENT, YOU GET A PIECE OF CHOCOLATE GA-NACHE.
THAT ASIDE, I WANT PUDDING.
WHAT-EVER YOU DE-SIRE!
OH
YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT MY PIECE!
LUCKY ME. I GET TWO PIECES.
VALEN-TINE'S DAY, HUH?

LONER-SENPAI, WHAT KIND OF CHOCOLATE ARE YOU GIVING TO USA-KUN?
WHAT?
YOU HAVEN'T THOUGHT ABOUT IT YET?
BUT IT'S YOUR FIRST VALENTINE'S DAY!
HUH?
WHAT?
YOU'RE STILL NOT DATING?!
I TOLD YOU BEFORE...
WHAT?
OUR RELATIONSHIP ISN'T LIKE THAT.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
SERIOUSLY? THAT'S SO LAME
IT'S NOT LAME
OH, THERE YOU ARE.
USA-KUN?
SNAP

SNAP
カシャッ
YES, BUT I WANT TO KEEP THEM FOR REFERENCE.
LEARN FROM HAYASHI-CHAN!
I TRAINED MYSELF THROUGH TAKING PHOTO STICKERS.
THAT'S A WINNING EXPRESSION!
I THOUGHT IT WAS GOING TO BE SO SMALL YOU COULDN'T SEE MY FACE.
USA-KUN, SMILE MORE.
THESE PICTURES ARE FOR ADVERTISING THE EVENT.
カシャッ
SNAP
あはは…
HA HA HA
HUH? HAYASHI-CHAN?
YOU DYED YOUR HAIR.
IT'S CUTE.
OH.

USA-KUN HAS A GIRL-FRIEND.
WELL, IF IT'S NOT WORKING OUT WITH LONER-SENPAI,
OF COURSE HIS ATTEN-TION WILL TURN ELSE-WHERE.
I DON'T THINK THEY'RE DATING.
THEN THEY SHOULD BE SOON?
THEY SEEM CLOSE.
ISN'T THAT THE GIRL HE KNOWS FROM MIDDLE SCHOOL?
THE ONE USA-KUN USED TO LOOK AFTER.
SHE'S DEFI-NITELY INTO USA-KUN!
TRY A LITTLE HARDER, USA-KUN
GIVE ME A BREAK
USA-KUN, LOOK THIS WAY
HAYA-SHI... YOU'RE AMAZ-ING...
LOOK.
THEY MAKE A PRETTY NICE COUPLE.
ガヤ
CLATTER

YOU'RE
WRONG.
HAYA-
SHI-SAN
SAID SHE
LIKES SOME-
ONE ELSE,
SO...
BESIDES,
USA-KUN
ISN'T LIKE
THAT
EITHER.

I DON'T CARE EITHER WAY
AT LEAST I THINK THEY DID BUT...
THAT'S WHAT THEY TOLD ME. BEFORE.
STARE
YEAH, BUT EVEN IF YOU LIKE SOME-ONE...
.....
STARE
...IF THERE'S AN ATTRACTIVE MAN NEARBY, DOESN'T YOUR ATTENTION TURN TO HIM?
BUT IF THERE'S AN OPENING WITH USAGI-KUN, I'LL GO FOR HIM.
ISN'T THAT HOW GIRLS ARE?
—!
GRAB
?!
.....

CHAPTER 6/END

CHAPTER 7

MAYBE I SHOULD GO FOR THE CLICH HEART SHAPE.
IT'S SURPRISINGLY DIFFICULT TO MAKE THE SURFACE SMOOTH.
THEN, I'LL BAKE A CHOCOLATE CAKE!
HMMM... BAKING'S A LITTLE DIFFICULT FOR A BEGINNER.
THE OVEN AT THE KAWAI COMPLEX HAS BEEN ACTING UP, TOO.
WHAT ABOUT GANACHE? IT LOOKS NICE, AND IT'S EASY TO MAKE.
I HELP SUMIKO-SAN MAKE COURTESY CHOCOLATE EVERY YEAR! I'M PRETTY PARTICULAR ABOUT VALENTINE'S DAY.
YOU'RE SO KNOWLEDGEABLE, SHIRO-KUN. IT'S KIND OF SCARY.
REALLY? WOW! THAT'S GROSS.
I'M BACK!

HUH? CHINATSU-CHAN?
YOU CAME HERE INSTEAD OF COMING TO THE STORE?
I WENT TO THE CAFE.
YOU WERE FLIRTING.
WHAT?
ANYWAY!
HUH? WELL—
HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT HANDMADE CHOCOLATE FOR VALENTINE'S DAY?
YEAH.
YOU'D APPRECIATE IT, RIGHT?!
OF COURSE YOU WOULD!
WHAT KIND OF CHOCOLATE DO YOU LIKE?
I NEED SOME IDEAS.
RIGHT, SENPAI?
無
NOTHINGNESS
I'M NOT SURE WHAT'S GOING ON,
BUT CHINATSU-CHAN'S MAKING CHOCOLATE?
I LIKE GANACHE...
HE SAYS HE LIKES GANACHE, SENPAI!
.....
FOR THE CAFE'S SPECIAL DEAL
I MADE SOME AT THE CAFE TODAY.
IT'S SIMPLE AND DELICIOUS.
NO CHOCOLATE GANACHE.
I DON'T WANT TO GIVE SOMEONE SOMETHING THEY CAN MAKE
WHY NOT?!
DID YOU MAKE IT WITH THAT GIRL?
NOTHINGNESS

NOTHINGNESS
UM,
SENPAI, ARE YOU MAKING SOME-THING, TOO?
YEAH,
NO.
NOTH-INGNESS
DON'T LET HER BEAT YOU, SENPAI!
LET'S AIM A LITTLE HIGHER.
SHOULD WE BAKE SOME-THING AFTER ALL?
SHE IS!
BUT
OUR OVEN DOESN'T WORK VERY WELL...
THEY'RE MAKING SOMETHING TOGETHER... I THINK?
OVERWHELMED BY THE POWER OF THE SADIS-TIC GRADE SCHOOL GIRL,
UM,
WE'RE HOLDING A CHOCOLATE-MAKING CLASS AT THE CAFE SOON.
IT'S ONE OF OUR VALEN-TINE'S DAY
THIS MIGHT BE A GOOD CHANCE!
SUPER INTERESTING
SOUNDS
FEELS LIKE A DECLARA-TION OF WAR.
MAKING SOMETHING WHERE YOUR RIVAL WORKS
I WAN-NA GO!
I MIGHT BE ABLE TO GET YOU IN...
APPARENTLY OUR BROWN-IES ARE PRETTY GOOD.

THAT WAS QUICK.
I JUST CALLED TO ASK, AND SHE SAID IT'S OKAY.
THIS IS TOO SUDDEN.
I DON'T WANT TO INCONVENIENCE ANYONE...
THANK YOU
BOWS
SHE SAID SHE'D GIVE YOU A DISCOUNT IF YOU HELP SET UP AND CLEAN UP.
TH—
YAY
SUMIKO-SAN, YOU, TOO?
IT'S NOT SO BAD, ONCE IN A WHILE.
IT'S THE SEASON OF LOVE. IT'S YOUTH.
GIGGLE
WE'LL MAKE EVEN MORE ROMANTIC PLANS TO...
I'M BACK.
DOO
I'M SO TIRED.
I'M EXHAUSTED FROM WORKING OVER THE WEEKEND,
AND EVERYONE AROUND ME STINKS OF CHOCOLATE.
I WISH I COULD SLIP STITCH THE PRIVATES OF ALL THOSE DUMB COUPLES.
HM?

DISPERSE
解散
I'M GOING HOME NOW
I NEED TO CHANGE
SWEETHEART, HELP ME PREPARE DINNER

LET SLEEPING MAYUS LIE.
UM, SENPAI.
YOU WERE TALKING ABOUT MAKING SOMETHING HANDMADE,
BUT DO YOU HAVE PLANS TO GIVE SOMEONE CHOCOLATE?
I JUST GOT CAUGHT UP IN CHINATSU-CHAN'S PLANS...
THEN WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO WITH THE BROWN-IES YOU MAKE?
NO.
I KNEW IT.
YOU DON'T SEEM LIKE YOU'D LIKE VALENTINE'S DAY

.....
I'LL EAT THEM MYSELF.
WITHOUT LETTING CHINATSU-CHAN SEE ME
GULP
OKAY.
WHAT?
DON'T MESS UP.
PLAY IT COOL.
AS LONG AS YOU'RE MAKING BROWNIES, LET ME HAVE SOME.
KEEP IT LIGHT.
I'M AT THE AGE WHERE I EVEN WANT COURTESY CHOCOLATE!
BESIDES, I LOVE BROWNIES.
NOT THAT I'VE HAD VERY MANY OF THEM.
SINCE WE LIVE IN THE SAME HOUSING COMPLEX, LET ME HAVE ONE!
I NEED TO MAKE SURE THIS PERSON WHO OVERTHINKS THINGS...
BUT
GIVING SOMEONE HANDMADE COURTESY CHOCOLATE...
CAN YOU DO THAT?
HA HA.

SHOW A LITTLE AFFECTION TO SOMEONE AS UNPOPULAR AS ME.
LET'S NOT TAKE IT TOO SERIOUSLY.
THE MORE I TALK ABOUT THIS, THE MORE POINTLESS IT SEEMS...
IT'S MY FIRST TIME, SO I MIGHT MESS THEM UP.
IT DOESN'T MATTER WHAT KIND OF COURTESY CHOCOLATE YOU GIVE SOMEONE.
...DOESN'T THINK TOO HARD ABOUT THIS AND BECOME UNCOMFORTABLE.
YOU'D JUST BE DOING ME A FAVOR SINCE I ASKED FOR SOME.
HRGH...
DID I PUSH HER TOO HARD?
OH...
I GUESS YOU MIGHT...

DON'T BLAME ME IF THEY DON'T TASTE GOOD.
GOOD NIGHT.
I...
ARE YOU ASSUMING THEY'LL TASTE BAD?!
I'LL DO MY BEST TO EAT THEM

NOW, THEN!
I DID IT!
FOR YOUR BELOVED BOY-FRIENDS.
I'LL BE WATCHING, SO DO YOUR BEST
LET'S MAKE BROWNIES
WHISPER
ヒソ…
WHISPER
ヒソ…
OKAY!
SINCE THIS TEDIOUS AND EXHAUSTING WORK...
FIRST CHOP UP YOUR CONFECTIONERY CHOCOLATE WITH A KNIFE.

IT'S LIKE THEY DON'T WANT ME TO TOUCH IT!
WHOA
CAN WE DO IT OURSELVES...?
UM...
CHOP
CHOP
PANT
PANT
CHOP
CHOP
...WILL HAPPILY BE PERFORMED BY SHIRO-KUN, WE CAN SKIP THIS STEP.
MELT YOUR CHOCOLATE AND BUTTER
AND MIX IT BY HAND...
YOU SHOULDN'T STIR IT TOO MUCH, YOU KNOW
WHAT?!
AND WATCHING THE OVENS
WE'RE CLEANING UP.
YANK
WHAT?
HOORAY
SHIRO-KUN, YOU CAN DO PHYSICAL LABOR IN THE YARD
LET'S TAKE A BREAK WHILE THEY'RE BAKING.
THERE ARE CAKES FOR YOU IN THE HOUSEBOY CAFE.
HOORAY!
THEN PUT IT IN THE OVEN FOR 20 TO 30 MINUTES!
THAT WAS SURPRISINGLY SIMPLE

TWITCH
SQUISH
.....?
HEH
I WONDER IF SENPAI'S WORKING HARD
AT MAKING BROWNIES FOR ME...
SHE'S GIVING THEM TO ME!
SHE'S MAKING THEM FOR ME!
THAT SOUNDS SO GREAT.
HAYA-SHI-CHAN.
COULD YOU TAKE SOME TEA TO THE RESTAU-RANT'S KITCHEN?
SENPAI JOINED THE CLASS.
RIT-CHAN AND CHINATSU-CHAN ARE CLEANING UP.
WHAT?
IF HE'S GRINNING
SHE SAID HE WAS JUST A "NICE GUY."
THEY MUST HAVE MADE PROGRESS SINCE NEW YEAR'S.
IT'S STARTING TO SMELL NICE.

SINCE THE BROWNIES ARE SIMPLE, WE NEED TO PUT MORE EFFORT INTO WRAPPING THEM!
I BET USA-KUN WOULD LIKE SOMETHING CUTE.
ONCE THEY'RE DONE BAKING ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS LET THEM COOL AND CUT THEM
CAN'T I JUST GIVE THEM TO HIM THE WAY THEY ARE?
NO!
I COULD WRAP THEM IN PLASTIC BUT I'D MESS IT WITH STICKERS
MORE FEMININE!!
SHEESH
IF YOU KEEP BEING SO STUBBORN,
HAYASHI-SAN WILL—
YES?
YOU MADE THESE FOR USA-KUN.
THAT'S NOT TRUE.
I'M JUST GIVING THEM TO HIM BECAUSE HE WANTED COURTESY CHOCOLATE.
DID YOU CALL ME?
WHOA!
JUMP
I BROUGHT YOU TEA.
OH
CLINK
HUH?
BECAUSE USA-KUN WANTS SOME,
THANK YOU.
EXCUSE ME.

ARE YOU GIVING CHOCOLATE TO ANYONE?
EXCITED
PFFFT
CHINATSU-CHAN, WHERE DID THAT COME FROM?
YOU'RE GIVING CHOCOLATE TO USA-KUN, RIGHT?
HEY.
IT SMELLS NICE.
MAYBE I'LL HAVE THE OWNER TEACH ME TO MAKE THESE TOO.
I'D LIKE TO GIVE SOME TO KUROKA-WA-SAN.
.....
NO FUN
I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF THESE WEIRD GAMES.
BYE.
SEE
I WAS RIGHT.
THEN THERE'S NOTHING IN YOUR WAY.

ONCE YOU GIVE HIM THE CHOCO-LATE, YOU'LL BE BOY-FRIEND AND GIRLFRIEND.
OH.
THE PLATES...
I TOLD YOU BEFORE...
...BUT USA-KUN'S JUST GOOD AT TAKING CARE OF DIFFICULT PEOPLE.
IT'S SORT OF NATURAL FOR HIM...
I TOLD YOU...
THEY EVEN CALLED HIM "FREAK SHOW"...
I'M NOT SPECIAL.
WHAT? YOU'RE STILL GOING ON ABOUT THAT?
SHIRO-KUN AND THE OTHERS TOLD ME YOU HAVE A TEN-DENCY TO READ INTO PEOPLE'S FEELINGS TOO MUCH.
I'VE HAD ENOUGH.
MAYBE YOU SHOULD BE MORE—
CLATTER

I'M GLAD WE TOOK OUR BREAKS AT THE SAME TIME.
LOOKS LIKE THEY'RE BAKING CAKES ONE FLOOR BELOW.
SUMIKO-SAN SAID SENPAI WAS OVER HERE SOMEWHERE.
ARE YOU SAYING...
な
WHAT
I DIDN'T SAY THAT.
EVEN THOUGH YOU KNOW YOU'RE DIFFICULT,
YOU ACCEPT THAT IT'S "NATURAL" FOR HIM TO ACCOMMODATE YOU.
EXCITEMENT
...IT'S NATURAL FOR USA-KUN TO LOOK AFTER YOU
BECAUSE HE'S THE FREAK SHOW RINGMASTER?

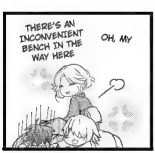
?!
IF YOU READ INTO PEOPLE'S FEELINGS TOO MUCH,
THEN WHY DON'T YOU LOOK AT IT FROM A DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE?
A DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE...?
I'D LIKE TO TELL SOMEONE I GUESS I'LL GIVE THEM CHOCOLATE.
JUST BECAUSE THEY WANT SOME,
HEY, HAYASHI!
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
ANNOYED
NOTHING.
?
?

TWITCH
SENPAI?
WHY—
I...
I HAVE SOME-THING TO DO.
I'M LEAV-ING.
WHAT?

WHAT WAS THAT FACE...
SEN-PAI!
UM,
YOU DON'T NEED TO WORRY ABOUT IT.
I'M NOT STRAINING MYSELF OR ANYTHING.
THIS IS NORMAL FOR ME.
...SHE MADE JUST NOW?
I CAN'T PUSH SENPAI.
I DON'T DO ANYTHING AS SIGNIFICANT AS TAKE CARE OF YOU.
AND THE COUR-TESY CHOCO-LATE!
YOU DON'T NEED TO THINK ABOUT IT TOO HARD.
I CAN'T MAKE HER THINK.
WE HAPPEN TO EXIST NEAR EACH OTHER
AND WE LIVE IN THE SAME HOUSING COMPLEX.
YOU'D JUST BE DOING ME A TINY FAVOR.
BE-CAUSE...
I CAN'T.

I CAN'T.
I'M SORRY...
BECAUSE SENPAI...

...DOESN'T LIKE ME.



CHAPTER 7/END

CHAPTER 8
IT'S MORNING.
GOOD MORNING.
SE...
SEN-PAI!
UM, ABOUT THE OTHER DAY WITH HAYA-SHI—
GOOD MORNING.
GOOD MORN-ING...
GOOD
SEN-PAI...
IT'S MORN-ING.
I'M SORRY.
I CAN'T.
JUST KEEP DOING WHAT—
YOU MUST HAVE REAL-IZED HOW I FELT.
UM... I UNDER-STAND! YOU DON'T NEED TO THINK ABOUT IT.

IT'S TIME
TO
WAKE UP.
IN THE MOST TERRIBLE MOOD I'VE EVER BEEN IN,
I WAKE UP ON THE MORNING OF VALENTINE'S DAY.
.....
FEBRUARY 14
2月
14

WHY DO YOU HAVE CHARMY-SAN WITH YOU?
HUH?
TERRIFYING
WHAT IS THIS DOING HERE?!
YOU'VE BEEN HOLDING IT THIS WHOLE TIME, USA-KUN.
NO WAY!
YOU GOT YOURSELF A FOREIGN GIRLFRIEND ON VALENTINE'S DAY? THAT'S GREAT.
FROM THE LOOKS OF IT SHE'S A LEGAL LOLI
HUH? WHERE'S RIT-CHAN?
SHE HAS SOMETHING TO DO AT SCHOOL AGAIN TODAY.
SINCE THIS MORNING?
I HAVEN'T SEEN HER MUCH OVER THE LAST FEW DAYS.
SHE ALWAYS DISAPPEARS RIGHT AFTER DINNER...
SHE'S OBVIOUSLY AVOIDING ME.
SHE'S OBVIOUSLY AVOIDING YOU, CHOCOLATE REFUGEE!
NICE HUNGRY!
SHE'S OBVIOUSLY CLEARLY BLATANTLY AVOIDING YOU!
DID YOU DO SOMETHING?
I DIDN'T DO ANYTHING.
DON'T SAY IT OUT LOUD!
WHY DON'T YOU LOOK AT IT FROM A DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE?

I CAN'T.
THEN PAINFULLY...
I'M SORRY.
SHE LOOKED SO EMBARRASSED
AND UNCOMFORTABLE.
A DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE? BASED ON THE FLOW OF THEIR CONVERSATION, SHE MUST HAVE MEANT "IF I LIKE SENPAI."
THIS IS THE ONLY COUPLE IN THE WORLD I CAN CELEBRATE.
TODAY IS ASCUM TO BE A UNCHARIDEVIL DAY!
WAS I...
CHARMY-SAN HAS A WOMAN'S FACE
WAKE UP
IT'S MORNING.
SQUEEZE
CV: RITSU
THE WAX PAPER IS CUTE TOO
THAT GENERAL STORE HAS ALL KINDS OF GREAT STUFF.
MAE-MURA-SAN...
...REJECTED?
THIS RIBBON IS SO CUTE.
YOUR BOYFRIEND WILL LOVE THIS.
HERE!
YOU THINK SO
THIS IS FOR YOU, SENPAI!

I WAS SHOCKED WHEN YOU SUDDENLY WENT HOME YESTERDAY.
SORRY.
IT'S FINE.
I WOULDN'T PUT IT PAST YOU, LONER SENPAI.
YOU'LL DISAPPOINT USA-KUN.
えへへへへ
BUT DON'T GIVE THESE TO HIM WHILE THEY'RE STILL WRAPPED IN PLASTIC, OKAY?
UM...
YOU'RE STILL GIVING IT TO HIM,
RIGHT...?
HERE!
V.D

THIS IS ALL I WANTED.
THANKS.
WHAT ABOUT FOR ME?
WHY DON'T YOU GET SOME FROM THAT BUSTY ... GIRL?
I BOT YOU AN ASSORTMENT OF SWEETS
YOU CAN HAVE THIS. APPRECIATE IT
THIS WOULD'VE MADE ME MORE THAN HAPPY
WHAT DID I DO?
RAISE THE REFLECTOR BOARD HIGHER.
OKAY.
IS IT GETTING HOT AND HEAVY IN HERE?
IT'S COLD! GET CLOSER!
BOTH OF YOU LOOK GREAT.
HA HA HA
WHY DON'T WE TRY A KISS ON THE CHEEK?
WHAT? NO WAY

YOU LOOK JEALOUS.
DID YOU NOT GET ANYTHING FOR VALENTINE'S DAY?
USA-KUN, YOU CAN TAKE A BREAK.
LET'S TAKE SOME POLAROIDS.
THEY'RE A NICE TOUCH
THANKS FOR HELPING.
WHOOSH
IT SURE IS COLD TODAY.
YES, ESPECIALLY IN MY HEART.
I GOT SOME COURTESY CHOCOLATE...
OH, MY
NOT BAD!
BUT—
USA-KUN!
SLUMP
.....
DID I STEP ON A MINE?!
BUT SEI-CHAN CAME TO RAKE
I STOPPED BY THE LIBRARY ON MY WAY HOME, BUT SHE WASN'T THERE.
SHE'S AVOIDING ME...
WHAT AM I DOING HERE...
IT'S NOT LIKE YOU DIDN'T GET ANY CHOCOLATE, RIGHT?

WE CAME TO SEE YOU.
OH, SUMI-CHAN.
SHIRO-KUN SAID HE WOULD COME BY LATER.
PERFECT TIMING. THE OTHER DAY...
IT SURE IS COLD.
OKAY.
YOU'D BETTER GO INSIDE.
I'LL STICK TO HARM-LESS TOPICS.
YOU GOT COURTESY CHOCO-LATE?
SENPAI CHARGED STRAIGHT IN...

FROM SOME GIRLS IN MY CLASS.
THEY WERE GLOVES-RENTAL COUPONS CHOCOLATES.
IS THIS ACTUALLY HOW SHE FEELS, OK...
WHAT DOES SHE WANT FROM ME?
REALLY?
THAT'S GREAT.
WHAT'S THE RIGHT WAY TO RESPOND?
THAT'S GREAT?
YOU WANTED SOME.
I'M HAPPY ABOUT IT,
JUST LIKE I ALWAYS DO.
PLAY IT COOL.
BUT THEY DIDN'T PUT MUCH THOUGHT INTO IT.
KEEP IT LIGHT?
IT'S BETTER TO HAVE MORE.
IT'S
I WISH YOU'D GIVE ME SOME-THING TOO.
HAHAHAHA
THAT'S FINE, THOUGH, AS LONG AS I GET SOME-THING!
I CAN'T.
OH...
YOU CAN'T, HUH.

HERE.
WHAT?
IT'S CHOCO-LATE.
WELL, THEY'RE BROWN-IBS.
WHAT?!
.....
WHAT'S THIS?

?
??
BUT WHEN I ASKED FOR SOMETHING JUST NOW, YOU SAID YOU COULDN'T...
DID I MISHEAR YOU?
NO.
YOU'RE RIGHT
WHAT'S WITH HER?
WHAT DOES SHE WANT?
IN THAT CASE...
MY USUAL SELF?
I CAN'T...
...WHY ARE YOU GIVING ME THIS?
.....
YOU TOLD ME NOT TO THINK ABOUT IT SO MUCH BEFORE,
BUT I CAN'T DO THAT.
...DO THIS EITHER.
I DON'T UNDERSTAND.

I...
WANT TO GIVE YOU THIS...
"WE HAPPEN TO EXIST NEAR EACH OTHER,"
AND "WE LIVE IN THE SAME HOUSING COMPLEX,"
AREN'T GOOD ENOUGH REASONS ANYMORE.
IT'S NOT LIKE THAT.

...BECAUSE IT'LL MAKE YOU HAPPY.

HAYA-SHI-SAN...
WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?
YOU...
YOU WANT TO GIVE THIS TO ME?
...TOLD ME TO LOOK AT IT FROM A DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE.
BA-DUMP
SENPAI CONSIDERED MY FEELINGS FOR HER...
I PUT MYSELF IN YOUR SHOES AND THOUGHT
ABOUT EVERYTHING THAT'S HAPPENED

AND THAT IT'S NATURAL FOR YOU.
BUT I SAID YOU'RE GOOD AT TAKING CARE OF PEOPLE,
THEN...
THAT'S NOT THE PERSPECTIVE I WAS THINKING OF.
I REALIZED... I'M PAINFULLY DIFFICULT.
BUT I REALIZED YOU MIGHT THINK I FELT THAT WAY.
I COULDN'T ACT SUPERIOR, LIKE I WAS DOING YOU A FAVOR.
I WAS SO EMBARRASSED...
"I'M SORRY."
"I CAN'T."
THAT'S WHY SHE MADE THAT FACE
THIS GIRL IS INCREDIBLY DIFFICULT...
ONCE I REALIZED THAT I FELT UNCOMFORTABLE SEEING YOU.
...AND SHE'S HOPELESSLY VAGUE WHEN SHE SPEAKS.
ARE YOU MAD?
BUT IF IT MAKES YOU HAPPY TO HAVE THIS,
I... CAN'T ENTERTAIN YOU THE WAY YOU DO FOR ME.
THEN I THOUGHT... I COULD GIVE IT TO YOU TO THANK YOU FOR EVERYTHING.
THAT'S WHAT I THOUGHT.

WHAT?
I...
IS AN INCREDIBLY THOUGHTFUL GIFT OF COURTESY CHOCOLATE JUST FOR ME, RIGHT?
IN OTHER WORDS, THIS
AM I WRONG?
NO.
I MEAN,
YOU'RE RIGHT...?
YES!
I GLADLY ACCEPT YOUR GIFT!

OH, MAN!
ALL RIGHT!
THANK YOU SO MUCH, SENPAI!
YOU'RE...?
YOU'RE EXAGGERATING...
YOU GOT OTHER CHOCOLATES.
THIS ONE IS DIFFERENT.
IT'S THOUGHTFUL.
I'M SO HAPPY!
.....
REALLY?
OH?
WHY DIDN'T YOU GO INSIDE?

I KNOW! I HAVE ONE LEFT OVER.
I'LL TAKE A PICTURE FOR YOU.
IT'S COURTESY CHOCOLATE.
OH, MY. HAS A NEW COUPLE BEEN BORN?
SENPAI'S GOT HER LINES DOWN...
WE MAY NOT BE A COUPLE...
I'M SO GLAD I DECIDED TO WORK...
RIGHT HERE,
AT THE BOTTOM OF THE TREE BEHIND US.
HEY... DON'T DO THAT!
ISN'T THERE SOMETHING WEIRD IN THIS PICTURE?
HUH?

WHICH DO YOU PREFER: SLIP STITCH OR TUCKED SEAMS?
きゃあああああ!
DO YOU LIKE OCTOPUS SAUSAGES?
ARE YOU THE TYPE TO PEEL FISH SAUSAGES IN ONE GO?
MAYUMI-SAN CAME BACK JUST AS I WAS LEAVING
NATURALLY, I LOVE OCTOPUS SAUSAGES

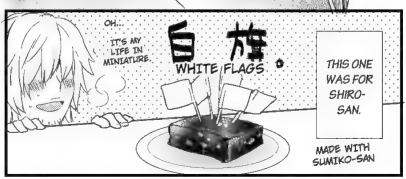
YES.
YOU GAVE HIM THE BROWNIES!
SO!
YOU'RE SO DIFFICULT.
DOES COURTESY CHOCOLATE REQUIRE THAT MUCH THOUGHT?
IT WAS COURTESY! I DID PUT SOME THOUGHT INTO IT, THOUGH.
NO, WE'RE NOT.
NOW YOU'RE BOYFRIEND AND GIRL-FRIEND.
I DON'T CARE.
USA-KUN WAS HAPPY.
I DID.
DID YOU PUT IT IN SOME CUTE WRAPPING PAPER?
REALLY?
YOU SEEM LIKE YOU WOULDN'T BOTHER.
NO, WE'RE NOT.
SO YOU'RE BOY-FRIEND AND GIRL-FRIEND—
WHY NOT...?

.....
WHAT WAS IT LIKE?
LIKE USA-KUN.
WHAT? THE GENERAL STORE?
RIT-CHAN, ARE YOU GIVING SOMEONE CHOCOLATE?
LEAVE IT TO ME
I'LL GO WITH YOU
WHAT
ON MY WAY HOME FROM SCHOOL
I WENT TO THE GENERAL STORE...
I DON'T KNOW IF IT WAS CUTE, THOUGH.
EVEN IF SHE DOESN'T LIKE ME THE SAME WAY I LIKE HER...
IT'S ALMOST TIME FOR WORK.
USA-KUN, YOU STILL HAVEN'T EATEN YOUR BROWNIES?
I'M GONNA EAT THEM.
DON'T! THESE...

...IT SEEMS I HAVE A PLACE

...BELONG TO AMERICA.

INSIDE SENPAI'S HEART.



CHAPTER 8/END

USA
USA TERRITORY

シロさんと俺 17

WE HAVEN'T PLAYED CHESS RECENTLY.
THE FAD IS OVER
YOU WANNA PLAY?
IT TAKES A WHILE, AND IT'S KIND OF A PAIN... IT'D BE COOL IF I GOT GOOD AT IT THOUGH.
YOU CAN BECOME COOL IN A SHORT AMOUNT OF TIME.
I HAVE THE BOARD IN THE PALM OF MY HAND...
IS IT ALMOST TIME FOR CHECK-MATE...?
WHISPER
S-SO COOL...!
DID YOU NOT NOTICE THE BOARD HAD CHANGED?
CHECK.
S-SO COOL...!

OH.

BEFORE YOU WOULD'VE LICKED IT AND ASKED IF I STILL WANTED IT.

WHEN I SAID I WANTED IT, YOU SAID IT WAS SO GROSS YOU WERE DYING AND NEEDED THE NUTRIENTS AND ATE IT.

SHIRO, YOU CAN HAVE IT.

WHAT?! ARE YOU SURE?!

TWITCH

I DIDN'T SAY IT LIKE THAT!

WHAT? I WAS JUST SPEAKING NORMALLY. HUH? RIT-CHAN, DID YOU SAY THAT TOO?

THAT'S ENOUGH!

I...

I WANT

TO GIVE YOU THIS

BECAUSE IT'LL MAKE YOU HAPPY.

CHAPTER 9

ARE YOU THAT FRUSTRATED RIT-CHAN GOT TO ENJOY HER VALENTINE'S DAY?

YOU MADE RIT-CHAN UPSET, AND NOW SHE'S HIDING IN HER ROOM

律ちゃん怒ってへそ曲げちゃったじゃなーい

MAYU-MI-SAN, YOU NEED TO LET IT GO.

THERE'S NO REASON TO BE SO UPSET. IT WAS JUST COURTESY CHOCOLATE.

IT WAS JUST A HAND-MADE AND SLIGHTLY THOUGHT-FUL GIFT.

SHE ACTED LIKE SHE WASN'T INTERESTED AT ALL

全く興味なさそうな顔してたっていうし

I'M NOT FRUS-TRAT-ED!

I'M JUST ANGRY BECAUSE IT S NOT FAIR SHE SECRETLY MADE CHOCOLATE WITHOUT TELLING THE PEOPLE WHO LIVE IN HER APARTMENT COMPLEX!

THAT'S NOT IT!

I'M SORRY

ごめんね

YOU'RE SAD BECAUSE YOU WERE LEFT OUT.

WAKE UP!

HEY! BRING ME CHARMY-SAN!

DON'T!

WHILE YOU'RE PUSHING YOUR LUCK, WHY DON'T YOU LOSE YOUR VIRGINITY AS WELL?

MAYBE I'LL MAKE SOME NEXT YEAR.
COME TO THINK OF IT, I'M SURE MANAMI WAS HANDING OUT HANDMADE CHOCOLATE IN HIGH SCHOOL.
MEN ARE SO WEAK TO HAND-MADE THINGS.
CAN'T YOU AT LEAST SAY THAT NICER, YOU PIECE OF SHIT?
HANDMADE CHOCOLATE FROM A GIRL YOU'RE NOT EVEN DATING WOULD BE LIKE BEING GIVEN A BOMB.
MAYUMI-SAN, UN-FORTU-NATELY
THERE'S AN AGE LIMIT TO HAND-MADE GIFTS.
HE TREATED IT LIKE A NORMAL PIECE OF ADVICE...?!
I GUESS IT'D BE SAFER TO BUY SOME-THING GOOD FROM A STORE.
NO ONE KNOWS WHERE YOUR HANDS HAVE BEEN. IF YOU MADE ME CHOCOLATE WITH THOSE I'D SHOVE IT RIGHT UP YOUR URE-THRA.
TSK
THIS GUY'S HEAD IS SO FAR IN THE CLOUDS, JUST TALK-ING TO HIM WILL MAKE ME STUPID.
MAYBE I'LL MAKE SOME-THING MYSELF FOR WHITE DAY.
I'LL BE LIKE, "I AN' AS-PIRING CHEF."
SO THAT'S WHY YOU'VE BEEN TEAS-ING RIT-CHAN.
RIT-CHAN'S FAVORITE...
WHY DON'T YOU RETURN THE FAVOR WITH THAT?

HEY!
DAMN IT
SORRY, BUT IT'S A MATTER OF LIFE AND DEATH.
WE CAN'T DO EVERY-THING FOR YOU.
ZIP
OH, MY
I'M SORRY.
SUMIKO-SAN, YOU'VE BEEN TOO NICE TO USA LATELY.
THOSE ARE PRETTY HARD TO GET.
SHI-RO.
I DID HAVE FUN STAND-ING IN LINE, THOUGH.
IF YOU SAY ANY-THING ELSE, I'LL STOP VERBALLY ABUSING YOU.
RIT-CHAN'S FAVOR-ITE?!
THAT'S ENOUGH.
MMMPH
YOU'LL BE FINE WITH-OUT IT.
RIT-CHAN LIKES ALL KINDS OF SWEETS.
.....
A HARD-TO-GET SWEET
THAT'S AVAILABLE IN THIS AREA?

OH
I KNOW.
LIMITED...?

GIFU-SWEETS
WHY DON'T YOU LOOK FOR POPULAR CAFES AND BAKERIES IN BOOKS?
I BOUGHT THIS SINCE THIS STORE WAS IN IT

IF IT'S DIFFICULT TO ACQUIRE, IT COULD BE REALLY EXPENSIVE.
OR SEASONAL...
MAYBE THEY ONLY SELL TEN AT A TIME OR SOMETHING?

WHAT KIND OF VAGUE QUESTION IS THAT?
IT'S SOMETHING POPULAR WITH GIRLS.
DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEAS?
I ASKED THE GIRLS IN MY CLASS, BUT THEY DIDN'T REALLY KNOW
USA'S REASONING
SHIRO-SAN CAN GO - DOESN'T HAVE A CAR, OR MONEY - NEARBY
SHIRO-SAN ENJOYS STANDING IN LINE - LOTS OF WOMEN GIVING HIM GOLD LOOKS

I HAVE TO PAY BACK SENPAI.
HEH HEH
SHE GAVE YOU CHOCOLATE.
YEAH.

WOW
CAN I BORROW THIS?
SURE... BUT WHAT DO YOU NEED IT FOR?

RAGE
WHAT ARE YOU GETTING MAD ABOUT?
I'M NOT GOING TO TALK TO THEM
OH.
SENPAI AND THE OTHERS ARE COMING OVER LATER, SO DON'T SAY ANYTHING ABOUT THIS.
I WANT TO GIVE SENPAI
WHATEVER WOULD MAKE HER MOST HAPPY.
THIS IS STUPID.
IT FEELS LIKE THEY'RE TESTING ME AGAIN.
HAYA-SHI-SAN.
WE'RE GOING TO GO SIT DOWN
HUH?
WHAT...
GINKAKUJI 銀閣寺
SHUFF

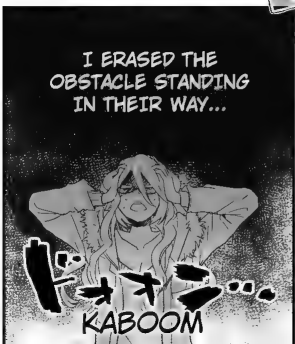
I WASN'T SURE IF YOU WANTED THEM
しるかよばかやろう
I ONLY BROUGHT THESE TWO TODAY.
I'LL BRING MORE NEXT TIME.
THEY'RE NOT THAT VALUABLE.
THERE'S A LOT OF THEM IN PRINT.
THAT'S A LIE.
I HEARD YOU CALLED TO PURCHASE THE LIMITED EDITION BOXED VERSION.
C-CAN I TOUCH THESE WITH MY BARE HANDS?!
きゃあっ
SHRIEK
THIS IS A MAJIMA FIRST EDITION...
IS THIS A CUSTOM-BOUND BOOK FROM THE "MEMOIRS" SERIES?!
IT EVEN HAS A WRAPPER
I DID A LOT OF THINKING AFTER WHAT HAPPENED.
YOU LET ME BORROW SOME OF YOURS.
THE TRADITIONAL COSTUME BOOK!
WHY?
I SEE.
I GOT TO THANK HIM...
...BY GIVING HIM COURTESY CHOCOLATE.
...FOR USA-KUN
TO HANG AROUND.
I DON'T THINK IT'S NATURAL OR OBVIOUS..

HE WANTED COURTESY CHOCO-LATE.
AND WE'RE FRIENDS.
BLUSH
WHY DID YOU GIVE HIM COURTESY CHOCOLATE?
COUR-TESY?
SIGH
I'M CUT-TING TIES WITH THEM.
I'M SICK OF THIS.
USA-KUN'S AN IDIOT.
THIS IS SO STUPID.
THESE PEOPLE MAKE MY HEAD HURT.
WHAT A PAIN.
I DON'T BE-LIEVE IT.
WHERE ARE SUMIKO-SAN AND...
DID YOU DYE YOUR HAIR?
HEY, GHOST WHIS-PERER.
WHAT'S HER PROBLEM? DOES GETTING ROMAN-TICALLY INVOLVED WITH SOMEONE KILL HER OR SOMETHING?

.....
GUYS DON'T LIKE IT WHEN YOU LOOK TOO GAUDY.
HOW?!
WHY? IT WAS A COMPLIMENT.
YOU LOOK SO PLAIN NOW.
HMPH
I JUST FINISHED WORKING, SO I HAVEN'T HAD TIME TO DYE IT BACK.
I'M DYEING IT BACK SOON!
YOU LOOK A LOT BETTER NOW!
YOU WERE TRYING TOO HARD BEFORE.
WHAT?
!
RIGHT?
YOU DON'T MEAN THAT AS A COMPLIMENT, DO YOU?
WHAT?
REALLY?
I DON'T THINK IT WOULD BE BAD TO DYE IT BACK.
WHY?
MAYBE I WON'T DYE IT BACK.
KUROKAWA-SAN DOES SEEM AS THOUGH HE'D LIKE THIS COLOR.

DON'T YOU LIKE YOURSELF WITH THAT HAIR COLOR?
*BOX: HAIR COLOR
WHA...
WHY?
HMMM? YOU SEEM TO HAVE A DIFFERENT ENERGY.
YOUR GUARDIAN SPIRIT ALSO SEEMED TO BE
HAVING MORE FUN BEFORE.
西園寺くん
SAION-JI-KUN, COME
ちょっと
YES, I'M COMING

BA-DUMP
AGAIN?!
AND THIS TIME HE GOT YOU RIGHT IN AN IMPORTANT SPOT, DEEP INSIDE YOUR CHEST!
HOW DID I END UP LISTENING TO THE SOUND OF THIS GIRL FALLING IN LOVE TWICE?


I ERASED THE OBSTACLE STANDING IN THEIR WAY...
KABOOM

I'M ALL ABOUT HIM NOW...
KUROKA-WA-SAN, LET ME HELP YOU
GASP

*CALENDAR: MARCH 15 SATURDAY

THIS IS
ONE OF 30 LIMITED-RUN CREAM PUFFS FROM NEAR THE STATION!
FROM THE POPULAR BAKERY
I WENT WHEN THEY OPENED, BUT THERE WAS ALREADY A LINE...
I WAS ONLY ABLE TO GET ONE.
WHY...
IT'S FOR VALEN-TINE'S DAY!
ON THE 14TH
BUT I GOT SOME.
THAT WAS JUST INSUR-ANCE.

I WAS REALLY HAPPY ABOUT WHAT YOU GAVE ME
SO I WANTED TO RETURN THE FAVOR.
I REMEMBERED YOU MENTIONED SOMETHING ABOUT LIMITED-RUN CREAM PUFFS SOLD NEAR THE STATION.
IT WAS WRITTEN ON A CARD AS A PUNISHMENT GAME TOO.
I FOUND A STORE LIKE THAT IN A BOOK.
THEY SELL OUT IN THE MORNING, SO I COULDN'T GO ON A WEEKDAY...
CLAP CLAP CLAP
WOW, YOU'RE LIKE A DETECTIVE!
YOU REALLY THOUGHT ABOUT THIS.
ALL TOGETHER, I FIND IT PRETTY REPULSIVE.

I GOT SOME GOOD HINTS.
IT FELT LIKE TRYING TO BE THE FIRST TO GET A TRIVIA QUESTION RIGHT.
SH-SHUT UP...
I DIDN'T THINK ABOUT IT THAT MUCH.
.....
YOU WERE RIGHT.
GO AHEAD!
CAN I EAT IT?
THANK YOU.

NOM
ぱくっ
YOINK
ぴよーん
THANKS FOR THIS—
CHEW
もっ
もっ
CHEW
CHEW
もっ
もっ
CHEW
GULP
んぐ
ごくん

.....
SOMEONE GUESSING YOUR FAVORITE FOOD CORRECTLY
GOES BEYOND ANNOYING, INTO UNBELIEVABLE TERRITORY.
YOU KNOW, LIKE USANBELIEVABLE.
HA HA...
...
WHY DID I EAT THAT CREAM PUFF?
WHAT?
DRIP
ポロ
あぁぁぁ～
WAAAAH.
あ WAH.
ラ URGH.
HUH?
MAYU-CHAN.
ARE YOU DRUNK?
HEY.
WHAT'S WRONG, MAYUMI-SAN?
BUT...
D...
DON'T YOU THINK...

I JUST SEEM...
LIKE A JEALOUS OLD MAID, GETTING IN THE WAY A YOUNG COUPLE?
WHAT DID SHE THINK SHE WAS BEFORE?
MAKE SURE YOU APOLOGIZE AND GO BUY SOME TOMORROW
ちゃんと あやまって 明日 買いに いきなさいっ
うぇ〜ん
WAAAH
SA-YA-KA
EVEN IF MAYUMI-SAN'S ALL-OUT GAG HAS CAUSED SOME UNPLEASANTNESS, I FELT I COULD FIGHT IT OUT FOR ANOTHER FIVE YEARS.

CHAPTER 9/END

MAYUMI-CHAN IS DELICATE

麻弓ちゃんはデリケート

BUT THERE'S ONLY FIVE.
PLEASE EAT THEM.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME.
WHIMPER
THERE WERE SO MANY
WHIMPER
WHIMPER
SHE WENT TO BUY THEM THE NEXT DAY.
YOU CAN'T USE SHIRO-KUN.
...
WHIMPER
I DESERVE TO BE EXCLUDED.
I'LL WATCH YOU ENJOY EATING THEM FROM A DISTANCE.
LISA...
THEY'RE PRETTY BIG
LET'S SHARE ONE!
WHY WOULD YOU DO THAT? AND YOU ATE IT EVEN THOUGH YOU DON'T LIKE THEM? YOU'RE SO MEAN!
I'LL TELL MY GRANDCHILDREN ABOUT THE SHAME I EXPERIENCED WHEN A SHITTY VIRGIN GAVE ME A CREAM PUFF I DON'T EVEN LIKE THAT MUCH AND CURSE YOU!
AAAH
I REALLY HOPE YOU HAVE GRANDCHILDREN.